



# Community Bicycle Safety for Law Enforcement



# **Community Bicycle Safety for Law Enforcement**

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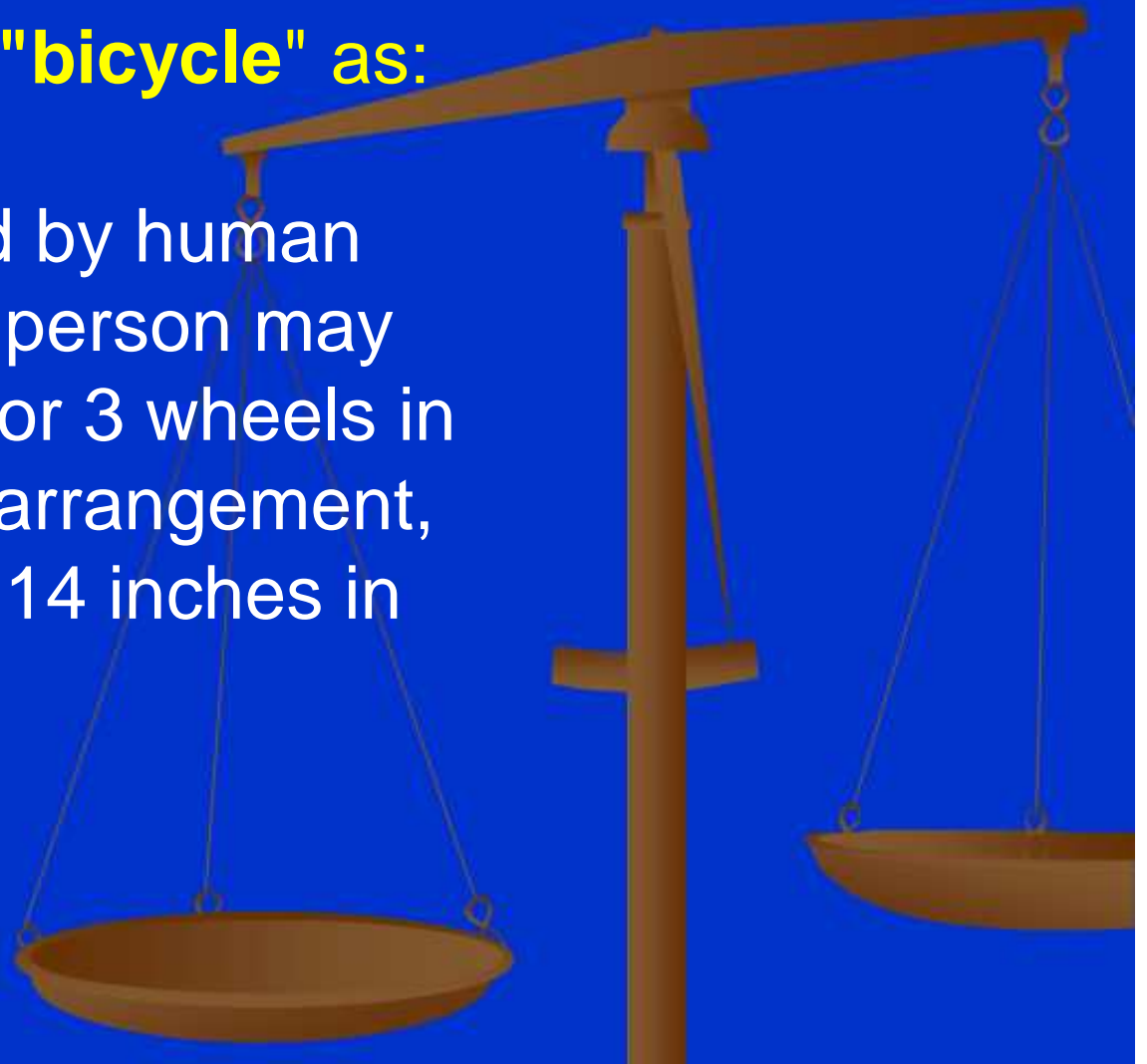
# Laws Pertaining to Bicyclists



# What is the definition of a bicycle?

**MVC 257.4 defines "bicycle" as:**

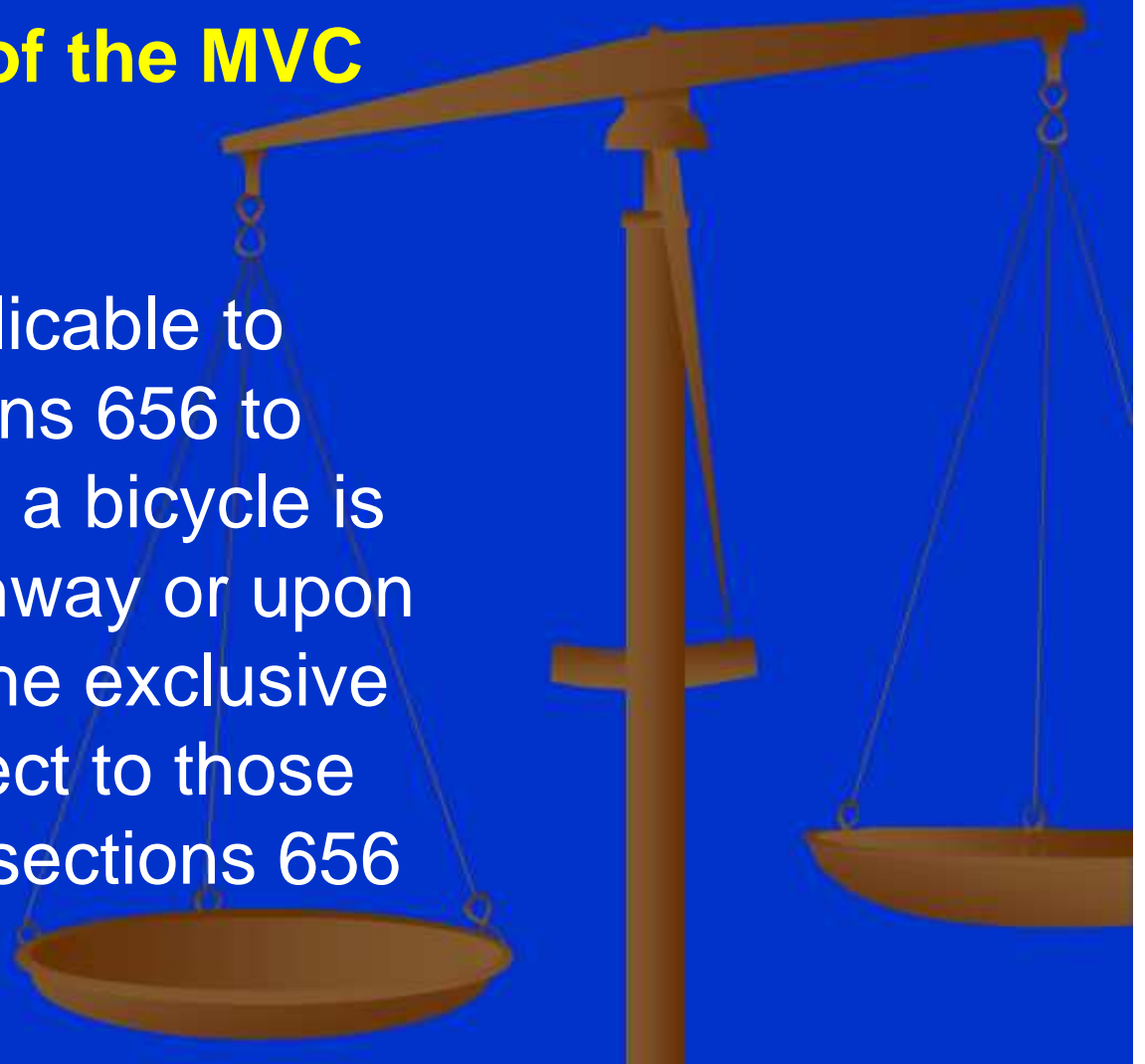
"...a device propelled by human power upon which a person may ride, having either 2 or 3 wheels in a tandem or tricycle arrangement, all of which are over 14 inches in diameter."



# Where do laws apply to bicyclists?

## **Section 257.656(3) of the MVC states:**

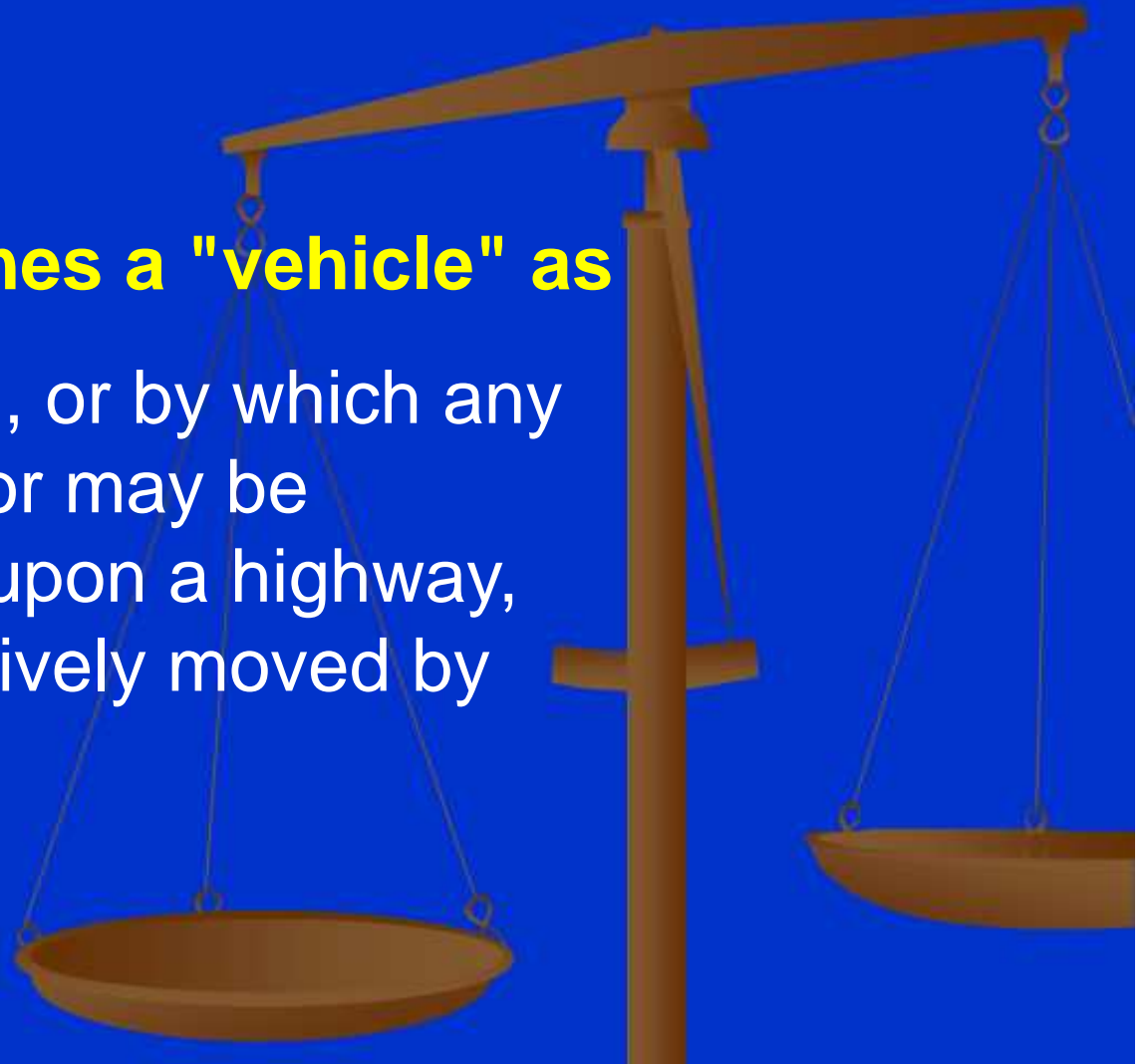
"The regulations applicable to bicycles under sections 656 to 662 shall apply when a bicycle is operated upon a highway or upon a path set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles, subject to those exceptions stated in sections 656 to 662."



# Is a bicycle considered a vehicle?

**No. MCL 257.79 defines a "vehicle" as**

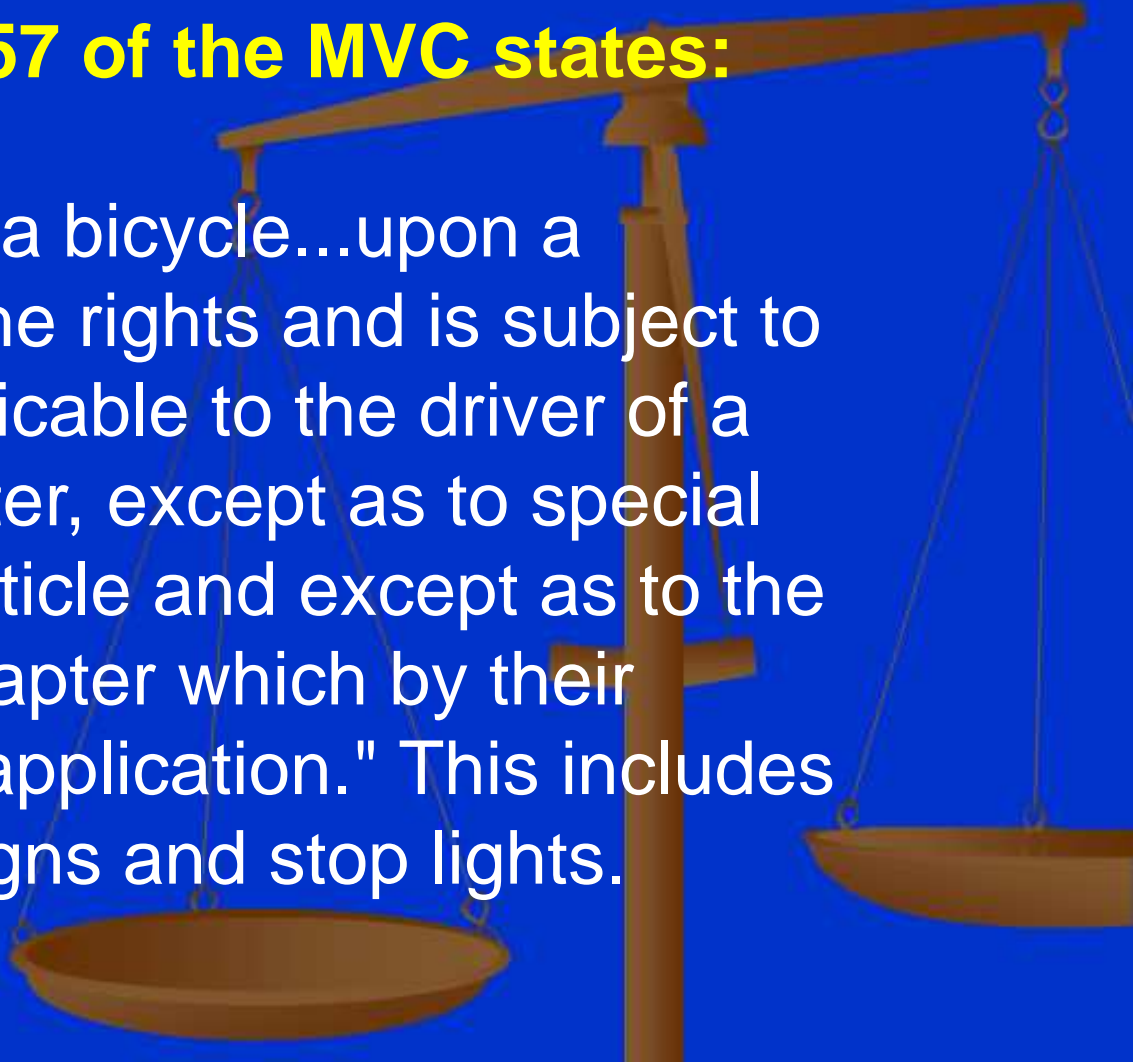
"every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, except devices exclusively moved by **human power...**"



# Does a bicyclist have to obey the same traffic laws as a motorist?

**Yes. Section 257.657 of the MVC states:**

"Each person riding a bicycle...upon a roadway has all of the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this chapter, except as to special regulations in this article and except as to the provisions of this chapter which by their nature do not have application." This includes speed limits, stop signs and stop lights.





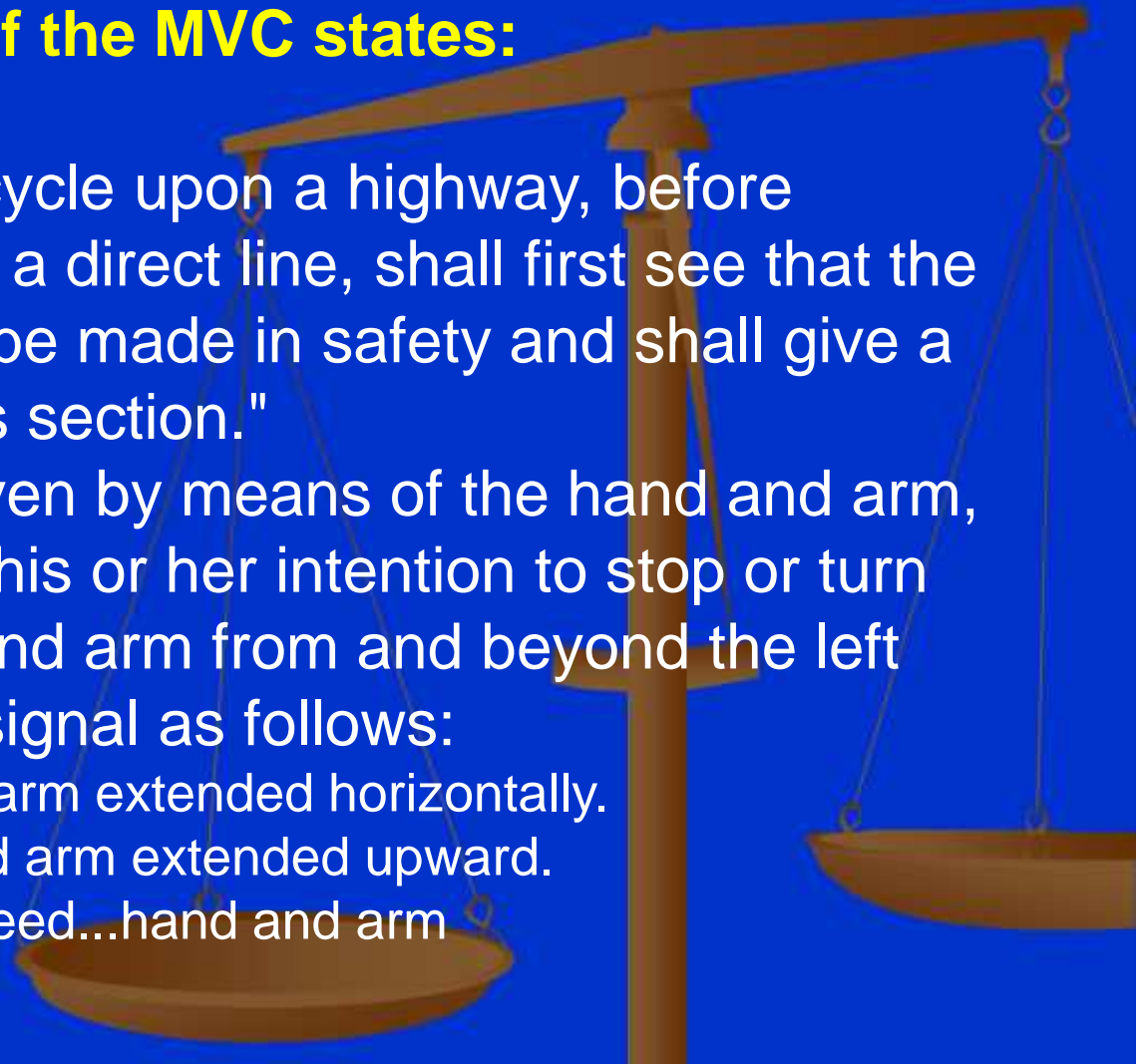
# Does a bicyclist have to signal their turns?

**Yes. Section 257.648 of the MVC states:**

(1) "The driver of a... bicycle upon a highway, before stopping or turning from a direct line, shall first see that the stopping or turning can be made in safety and shall give a signal as required in this section."

(3) "When a signal is given by means of the hand and arm, the driver shall indicate his or her intention to stop or turn by extending his hand and arm from and beyond the left side of the vehicle and signal as follows:

- (a) "Left turn...hand and arm extended horizontally.
- (b) "Right turn...hand and arm extended upward.
- (c) "Stop or decrease speed...hand and arm extended downward."

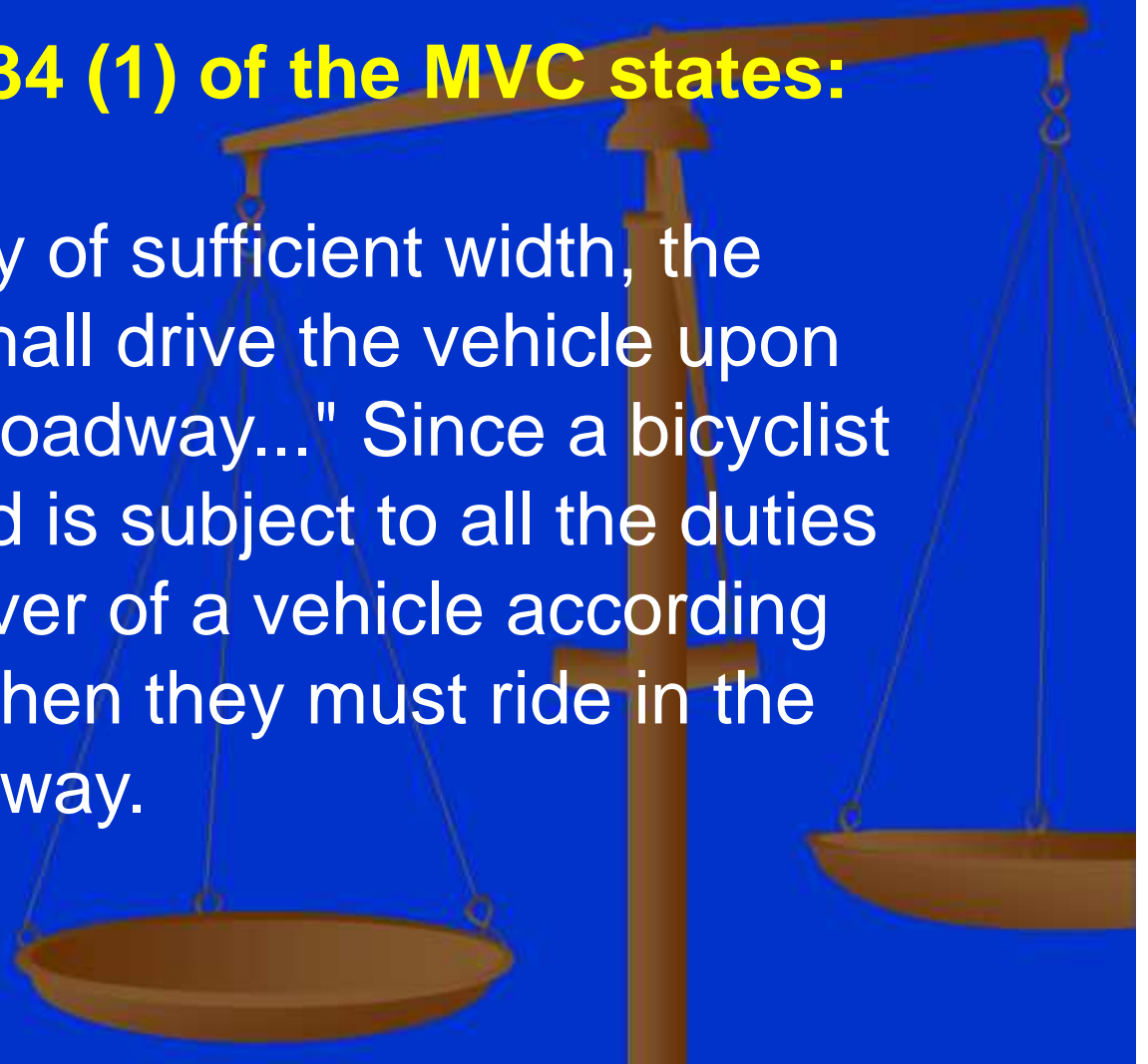




# Does a bicyclist have to ride with the direction of traffic?

**Yes. Section 257.634 (1) of the MVC states:**

"Upon each roadway of sufficient width, the driver of a vehicle shall drive the vehicle upon the right half of the roadway..." Since a bicyclist has all the rights and is subject to all the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle according to Section 257.657 then they must ride in the right half of the roadway.

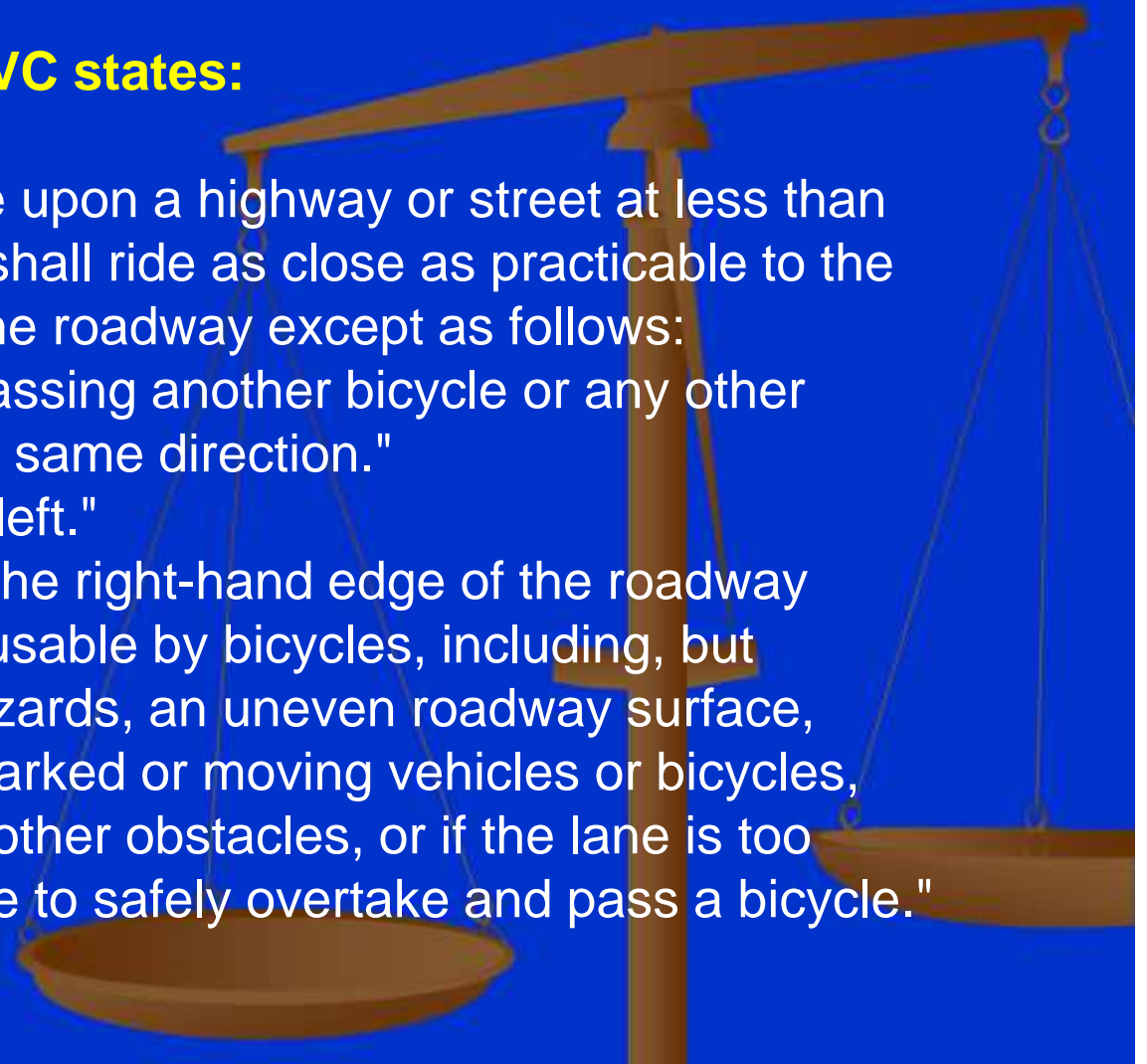


# Where in the right half of the roadway must a bicyclists ride?

## Section 257.660a of the MVC states:

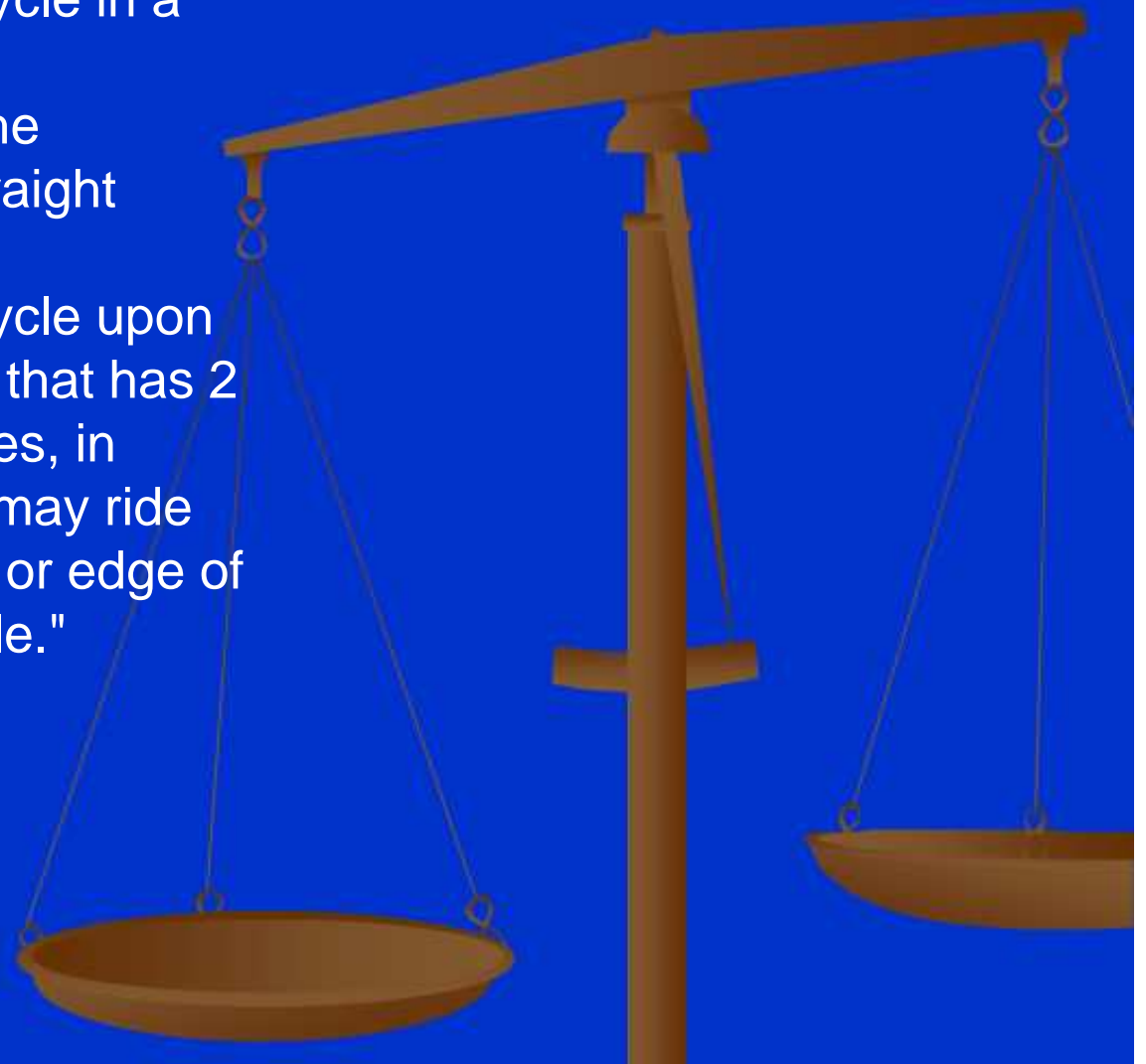
A person operating a bicycle upon a highway or street at less than the existing speed of traffic shall ride as close as practicable to the right-hand curb or edge of the roadway except as follows:

- (a) "When overtaking and passing another bicycle or any other vehicle proceeding in the same direction."
- (b) "When preparing to turn left."
- (c) "When conditions make the right-hand edge of the roadway unsafe or reasonably unusable by bicycles, including, but not limited to, surface hazards, an uneven roadway surface, drain openings, debris, parked or moving vehicles or bicycles, pedestrians, animals, or other obstacles, or if the lane is too narrow to permit a vehicle to safely overtake and pass a bicycle."



(d) "When operating a bicycle in a lane in which the traffic is turning right but the individual intends to go straight through the intersection."

(e) "When operating a bicycle upon a 1-way highway or street that has 2 or more marked traffic lanes, in which case the individual may ride as near the left-hand curb or edge of that roadway as practicable."



# Can a bicyclist impede traffic?

If the roadway the bicyclist is on has no minimum speed limit, then they are traffic according to the MVC and MCL and therefore cannot be impeding traffic simply because of their speed or the fact that they are riding a bicycle.

**MVC Section 257.657 states:** "Each person riding a bicycle...upon a roadway has all of the rights and is subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle by this chapter..."

**MCL 257.69 states:** ... traffic means pedestrians, ridden or herded animals, vehicles, street cars and other conveyances either singly or together while using any highway for purposes of travel."

# Is it legal to ride between lanes?

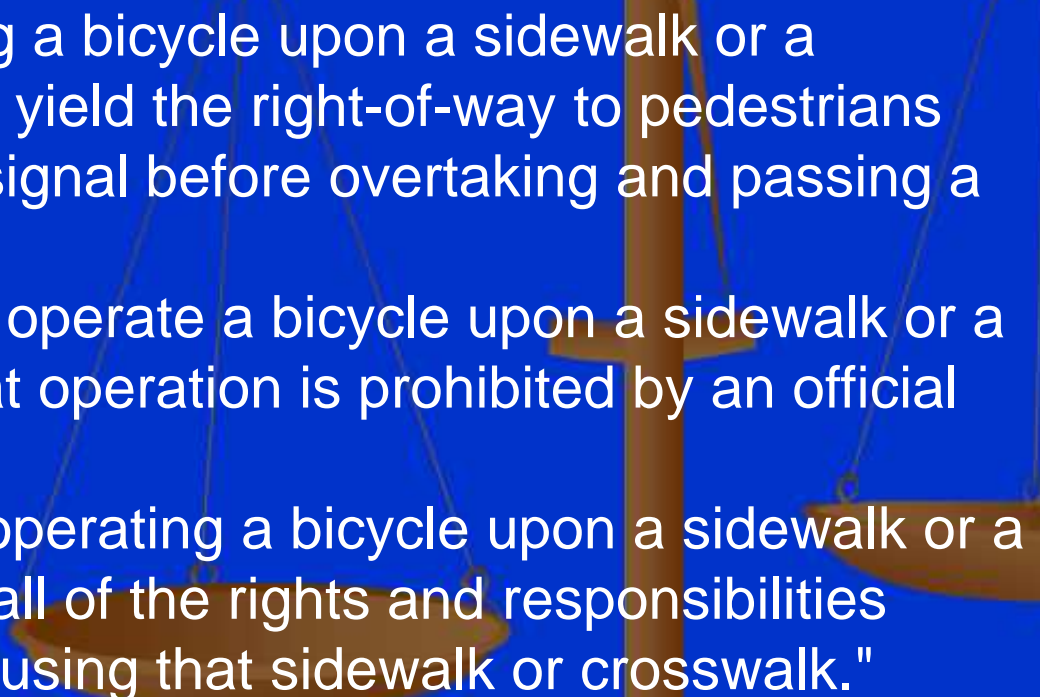
**No!**

The MVC does not allow "passing between lanes of traffic,"  
Bicyclists may only pass on the right if there is a dedicated bicycle facility.



# Must a bicyclist ride on the sidewalk? Is it legal? What about crosswalks?

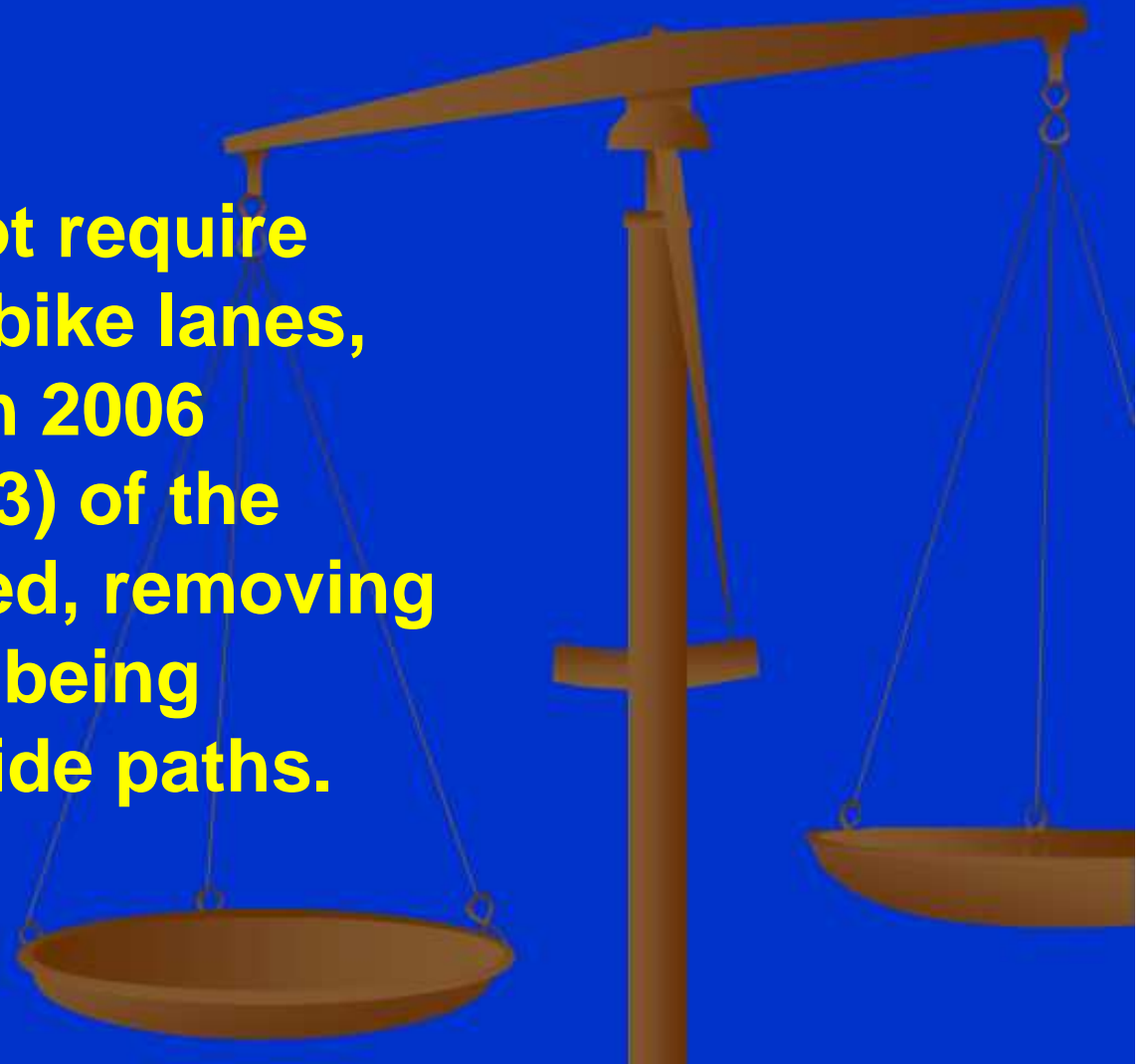
**The MVC does not require bicyclists to ride on the sidewalk and we do not recommend it because of safety hazards to the bicyclist and other sidewalk users. However, Section 257.660c of the MVC states:**

- 
- (1) "An individual operating a bicycle upon a sidewalk or a pedestrian crosswalk shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian."
  - (2) "An individual shall not operate a bicycle upon a sidewalk or a pedestrian crosswalk if that operation is prohibited by an official traffic control device."
  - (3) "An individual lawfully operating a bicycle upon a sidewalk or a pedestrian crosswalk has all of the rights and responsibilities applicable to a pedestrian using that sidewalk or crosswalk."



# MUST A BICYCLIST RIDE IN A BIKE LANE OR A SIDE PATH?

**The MVC does not require bicyclists to use bike lanes, even if present. In 2006 Section 257.660 (3) of the MVC was amended, removing "bicyclists" from being required to use side paths.**

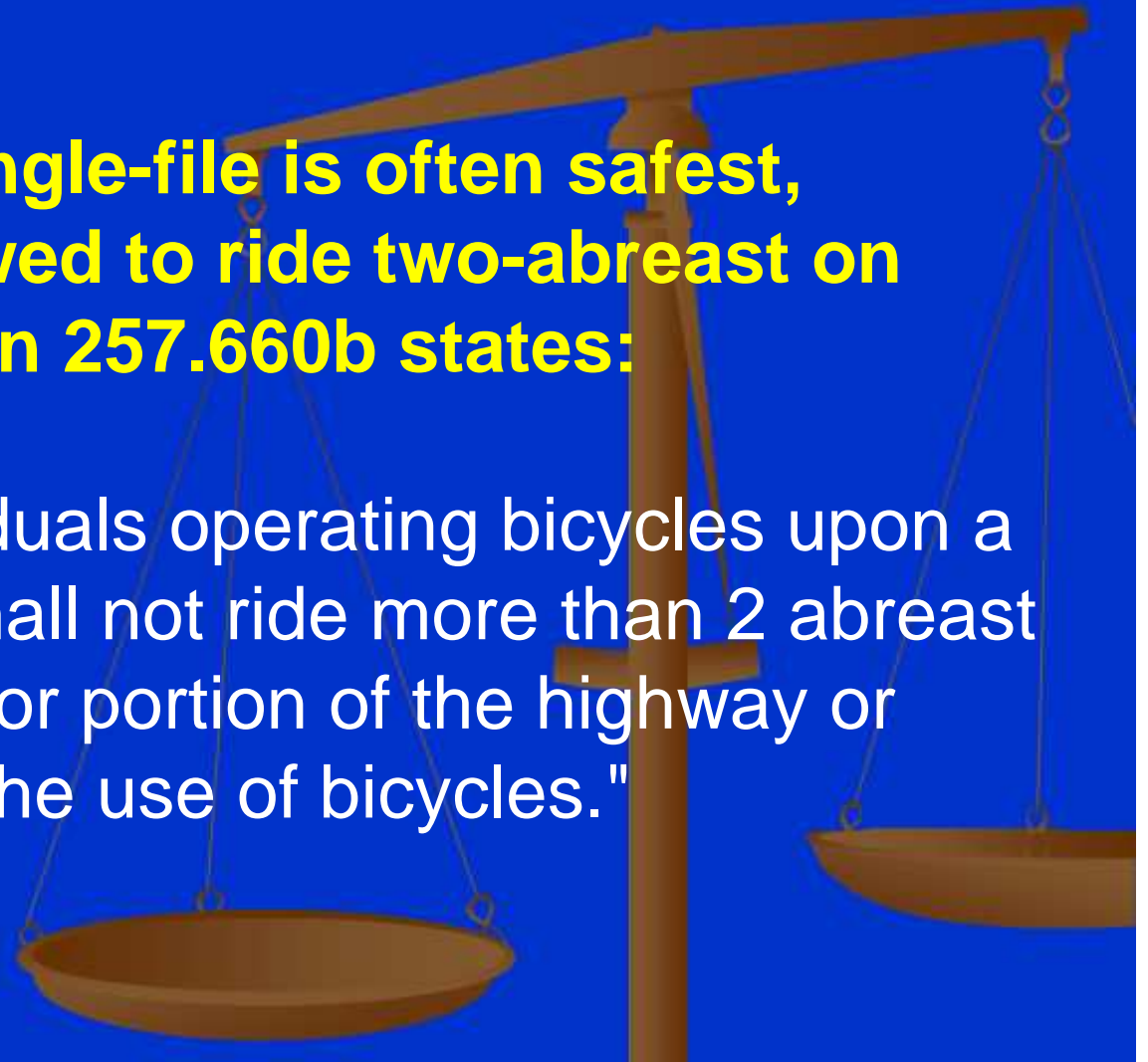




# May bicyclists ride two abreast?

**Although riding single-file is often safest, bicyclists are allowed to ride two-abreast on roads; MVC Section 257.660b states:**

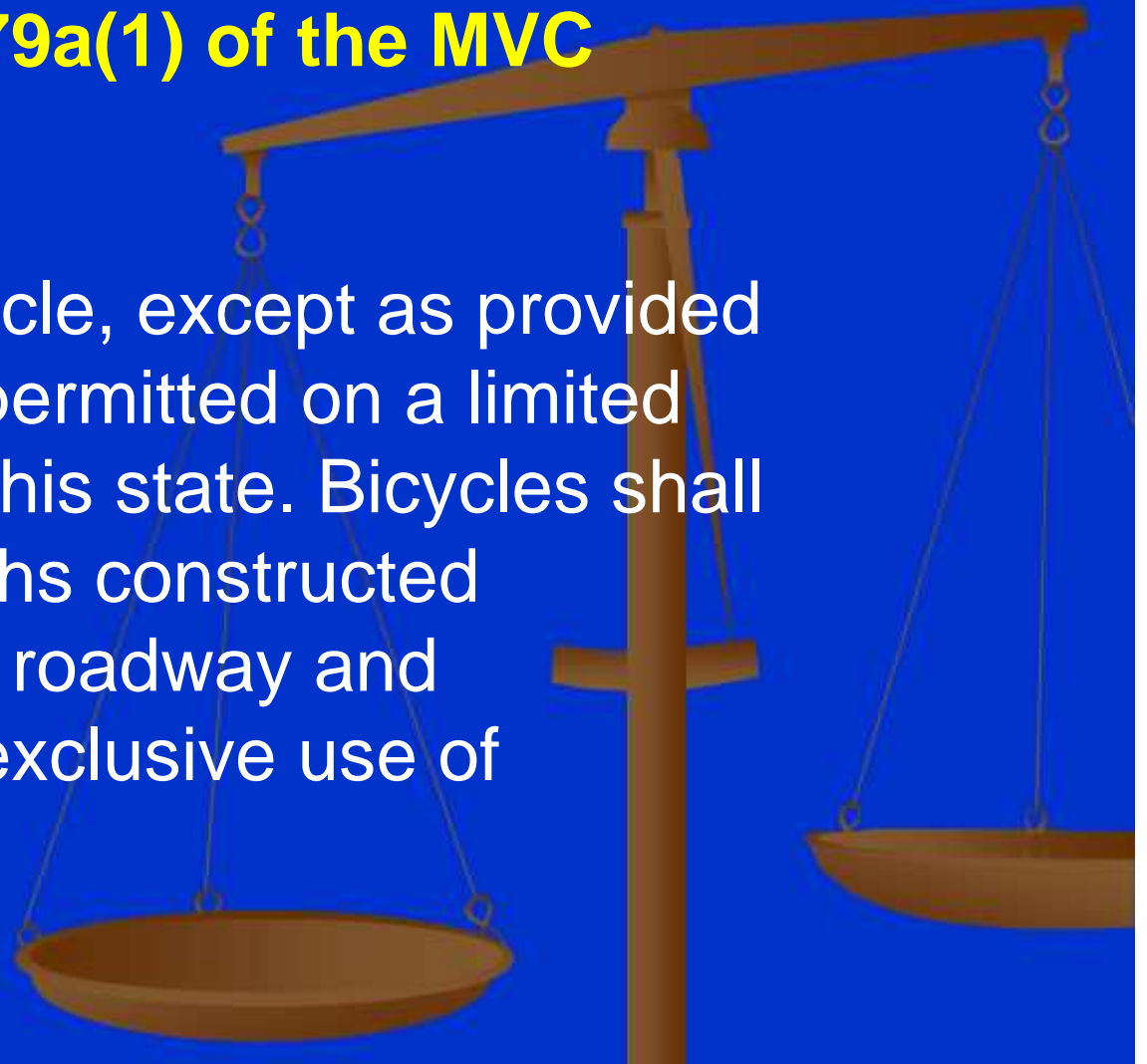
"Two or more individuals operating bicycles upon a highway or street shall not ride more than 2 abreast except upon a path or portion of the highway or street set aside for the use of bicycles."



# Is it legal to ride on a limited-access highway?

**No. Section 257.679a(1) of the MVC states:**

"... nor shall a...bicycle, except as provided in this section...be permitted on a limited access highway in this state. Bicycles shall be permitted on paths constructed separately from the roadway and designated for the exclusive use of bicycles."



# DOES A BICYCLIST HAVE TO WEAR A HELMET?

**Although the MVC does not require bicyclists to wear helmets, we strongly recommend wearing one, because it can prevent 85% of brain injuries.**



# Does a bicyclist have to use lights?

**Yes. MVC Section 257.662 states:**

(1) "A bicycle...being operated on a roadway between 1/2 hour after sunset and 1/2 hour before sunrise shall be equipped with a lamp on the front which shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and with a red reflector on the rear which shall be visible from all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle. A lamp emitting a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear may be used in addition to the red reflector."

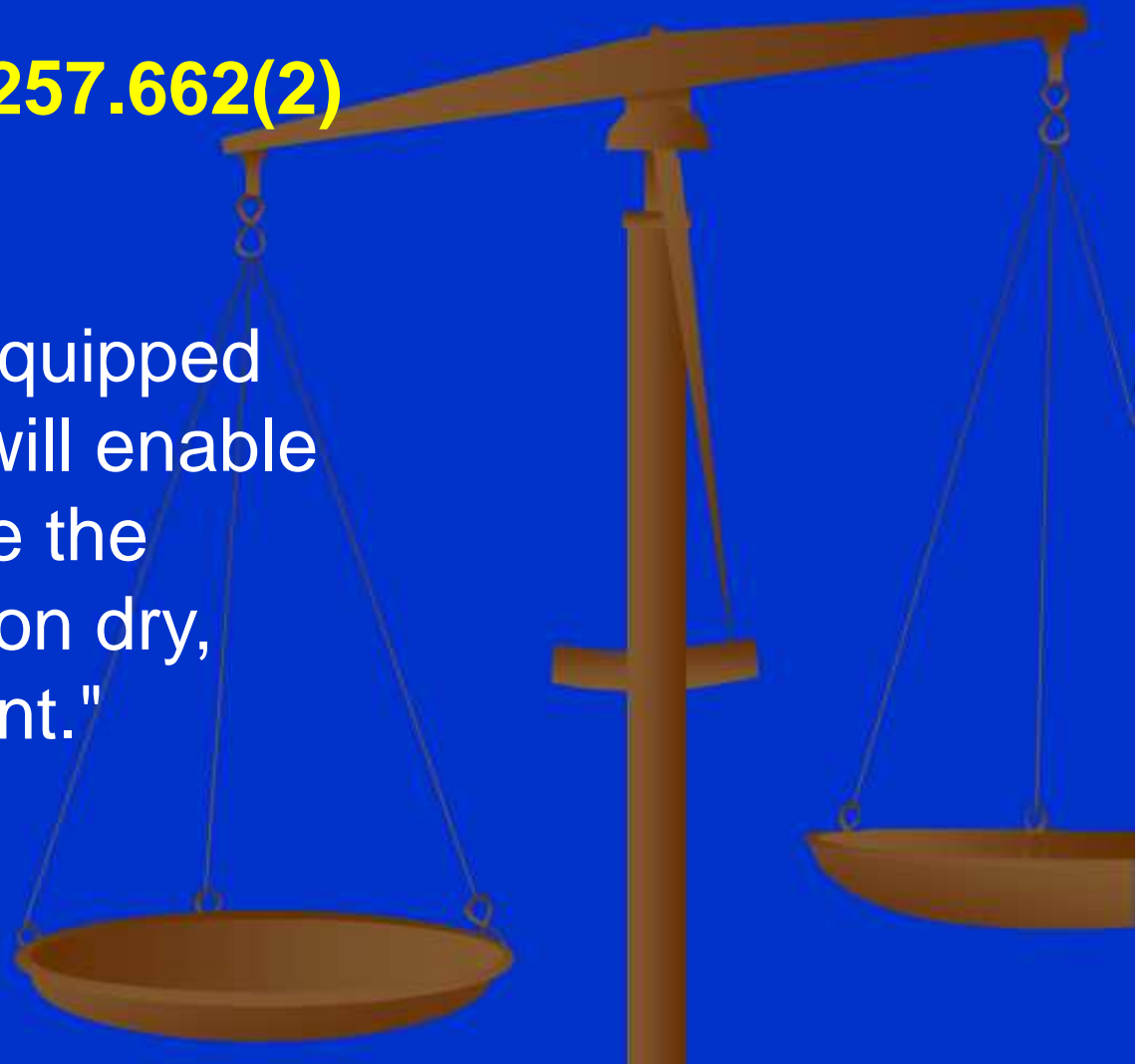
**LMB strongly recommends using a rear red light when bicycling in the dark. A bicyclist may only use a "white" light on the front. A "blue" light is reserved for emergency services and may not be used. A "white" light may not be used on the rear of a bicycle. Red is the preferred color for the rear.**

MVC Section 257.662 (4) and (5) also makes it illegal to sell a bicycle or bike pedal without pedal reflectors, or a bike without "either tires which have reflective sidewalls or with wide-angle prismatic spoke reflectors."

# DOES THE LAW REQUIRE BRAKES ON BICYCLES?

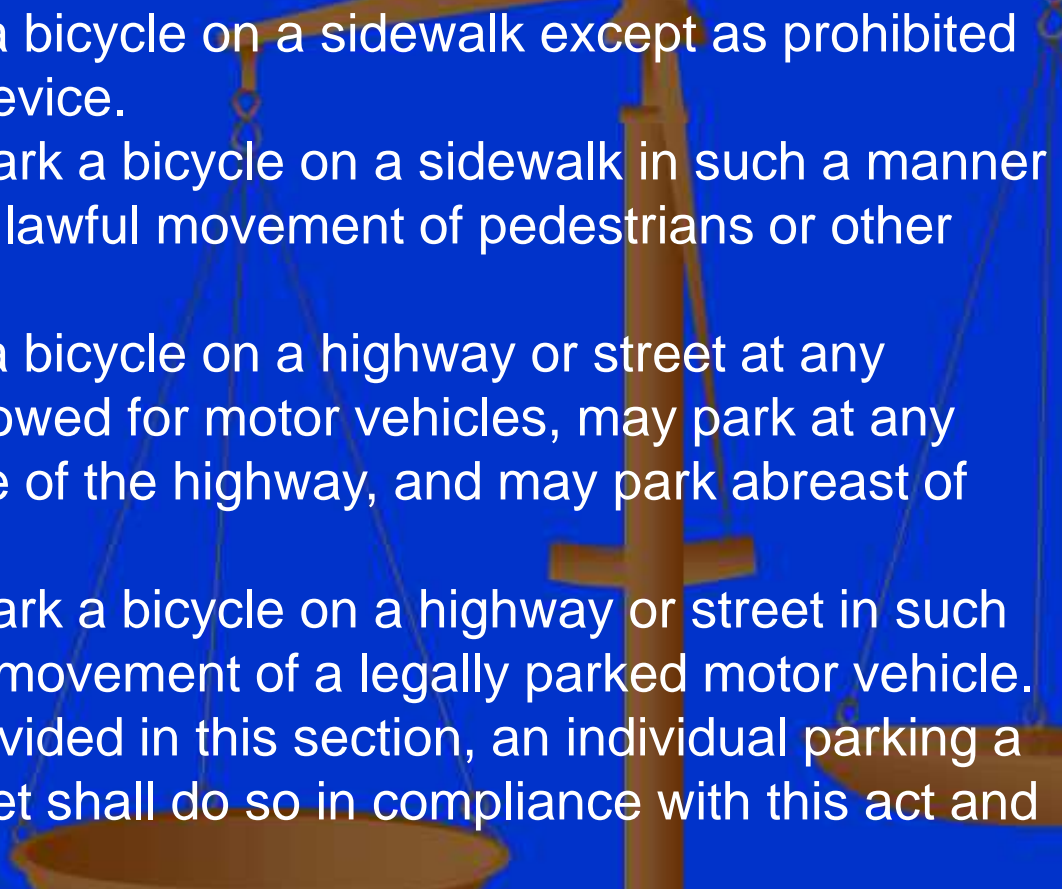
**Yes. MVC Section 257.662(2)  
states:**

"A bicycle shall be equipped  
with a brake which will enable  
the operator to make the  
braked wheels skid on dry,  
level, clean pavement."



# Is it legal to park on the street? Where can bicyclists park on a sidewalk?

## **MVC Section 257.660d states:**

- 
- (1) "An individual may park a bicycle on a sidewalk except as prohibited by an official traffic control device.
  - (2) "An individual shall not park a bicycle on a sidewalk in such a manner that the bicycle impedes the lawful movement of pedestrians or other traffic.
  - (3) "An individual may park a bicycle on a highway or street at any location where parking is allowed for motor vehicles, may park at any angle to the curb or the edge of the highway, and may park abreast of another bicycle.
  - (4) "An individual shall not park a bicycle on a highway or street in such a manner as to obstruct the movement of a legally parked motor vehicle.
  - (5) "Except as otherwise provided in this section, an individual parking a bicycle on a highway or street shall do so in compliance with this act and any local ordinance."



# Is it legal to use a cell phone while riding a bike?

**Only if the cell phone is in hands free mode.**

**MVC Section 257.661 states:**

"A person operating a bicycle...shall not carry any package, bundle, or article that prevents the driver from keeping both hands upon the handlebars of the vehicle."





# How about texting while cycling?

**All Michigan drivers are prohibited from texting while driving under MVC Sec. 257.602.b. Since bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers (MVC Section 257.657), it is therefore also illegal for a bicyclist to text while cycling on Michigan roadways.**



# Is there a three foot passing law in Michigan?

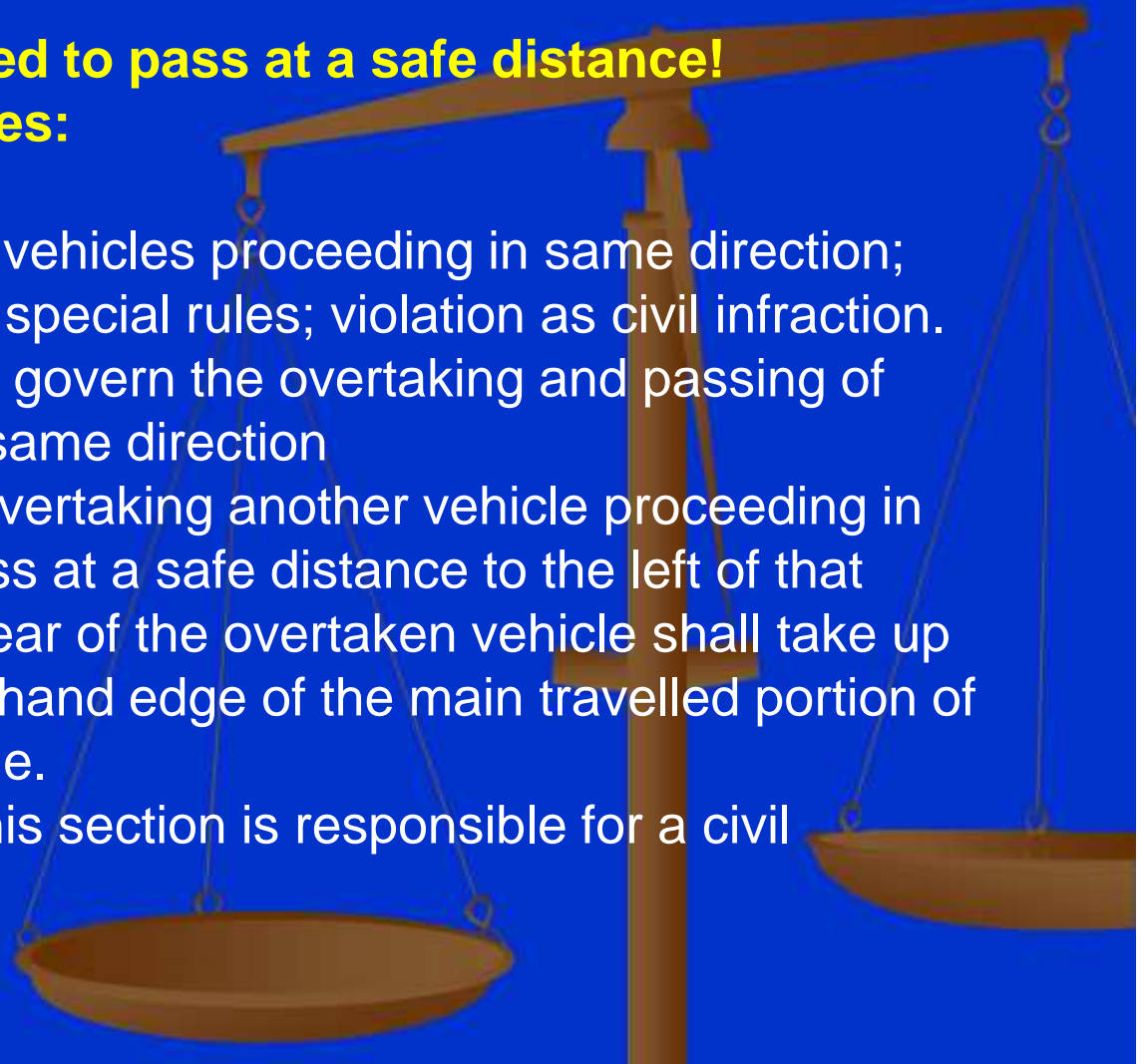
**No, but drivers are required to pass at a safe distance!**  
**MVC Section 257.636 states:**

"Overtaking and passing of vehicles proceeding in same direction; limitations, exceptions, and special rules; violation as civil infraction.

(1) The following rules shall govern the overtaking and passing of vehicles proceeding in the same direction

(a) The driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass at a safe distance to the left of that vehicle, and when safely clear of the overtaken vehicle shall take up a position as near the right-hand edge of the main travelled portion of the highway as is practicable.

(2) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction."

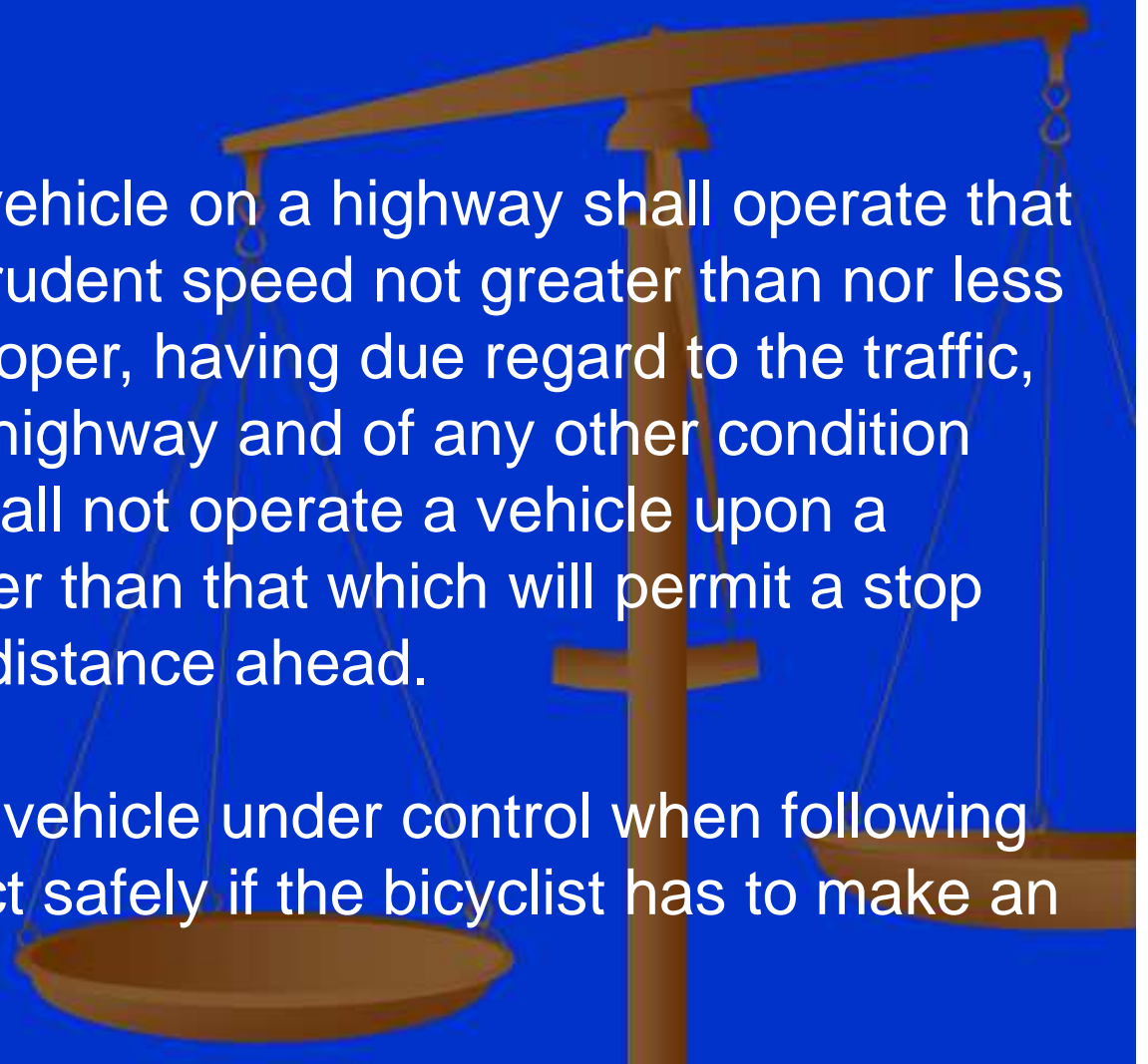


# WHAT OTHER RULES MUST A MOTORIST FOLLOW WHEN OVERTAKING OR FOLLOWING A BICYCLISTS?

## Section 257.627 states:

(1) A person operating a vehicle on a highway shall operate that vehicle at a careful and prudent speed not greater than nor less than is reasonable and proper, having due regard to the traffic, surface, and width of the highway and of any other condition then existing. A person shall not operate a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than that which will permit a stop within the assured, clear distance ahead.

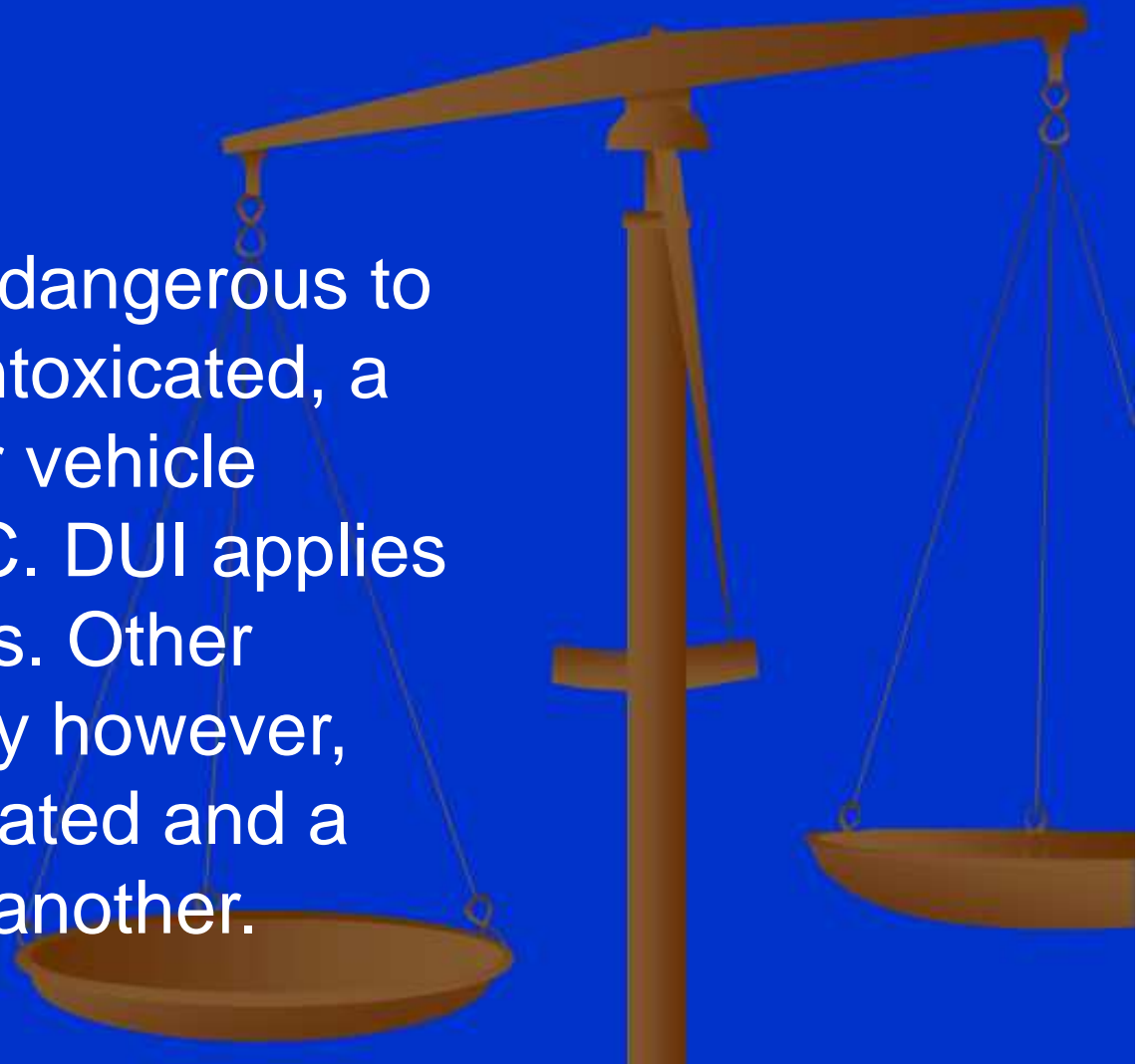
Motorists must have their vehicle under control when following bicyclist to be able to react safely if the bicyclist has to make an emergency maneuver.



# Can you be charged with a DUI while riding your bicycle?

**No!**

Although it would be dangerous to ride a bicycle while intoxicated, a bicycle is not a motor vehicle according to the MVC. DUI applies only to motor vehicles. Other ordinances may apply however, such as being intoxicated and a danger to oneself or another.

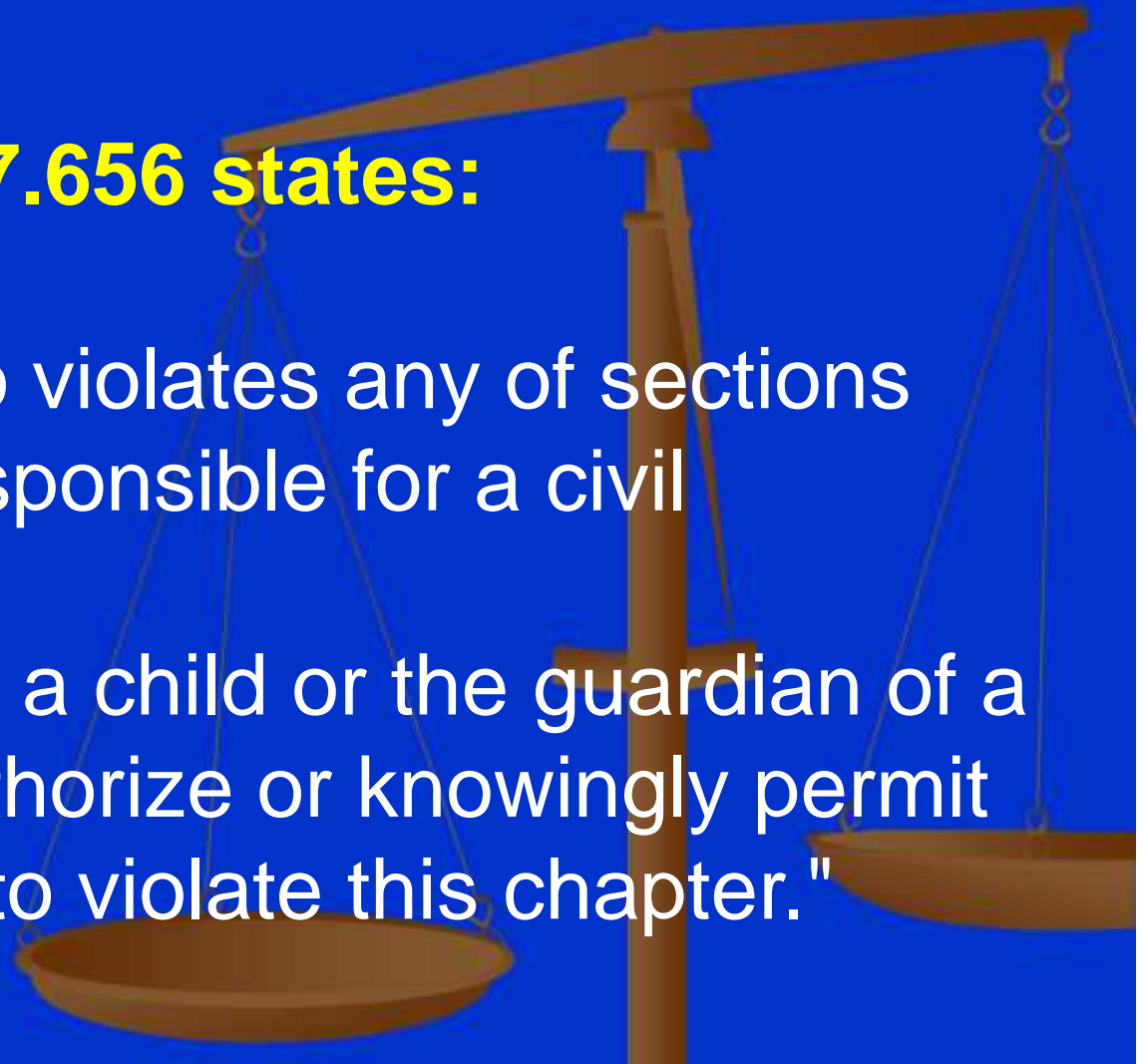


# What are the penalties for a bicyclist violating the MVC?

## **MVC Section 257.656 states:**

(1) "A person who violates any of sections 656 to 661a is responsible for a civil infraction.

(2) "The parent of a child or the guardian of a ward shall not authorize or knowingly permit the child or ward to violate this chapter."



# IF A BICYCLIST IS CITED FOR VIOLATING TRAFFIC LAW, DOES IT GO ON THEIR DRIVING RECORD?

**No!**

The violations are civil infractions, but do not go on a person's driving record. There are no points associated with a bicycle violation.





# Is it legal to carry another person on your bicycle? What about a child in a child seat?

**No, unless the seat is designed to be attached. This would allow for the legal use of a child seat since it is designed to be attached to the bicycle.**

**MVC Section 257.658 states:**

(1) "A person propelling a bicycle ... shall not ride other than upon and astride a permanent and regular seat attached ..."

(2) "A bicycle ... shall not be used to carry more persons at 1 time than the number for which it is designed and equipped."





# IS IT LEGAL TO GRAB ONTO ANOTHER VEHICLE TO "HITCH" A RIDE?

**No!**

**MVC Section 257.659 states:**

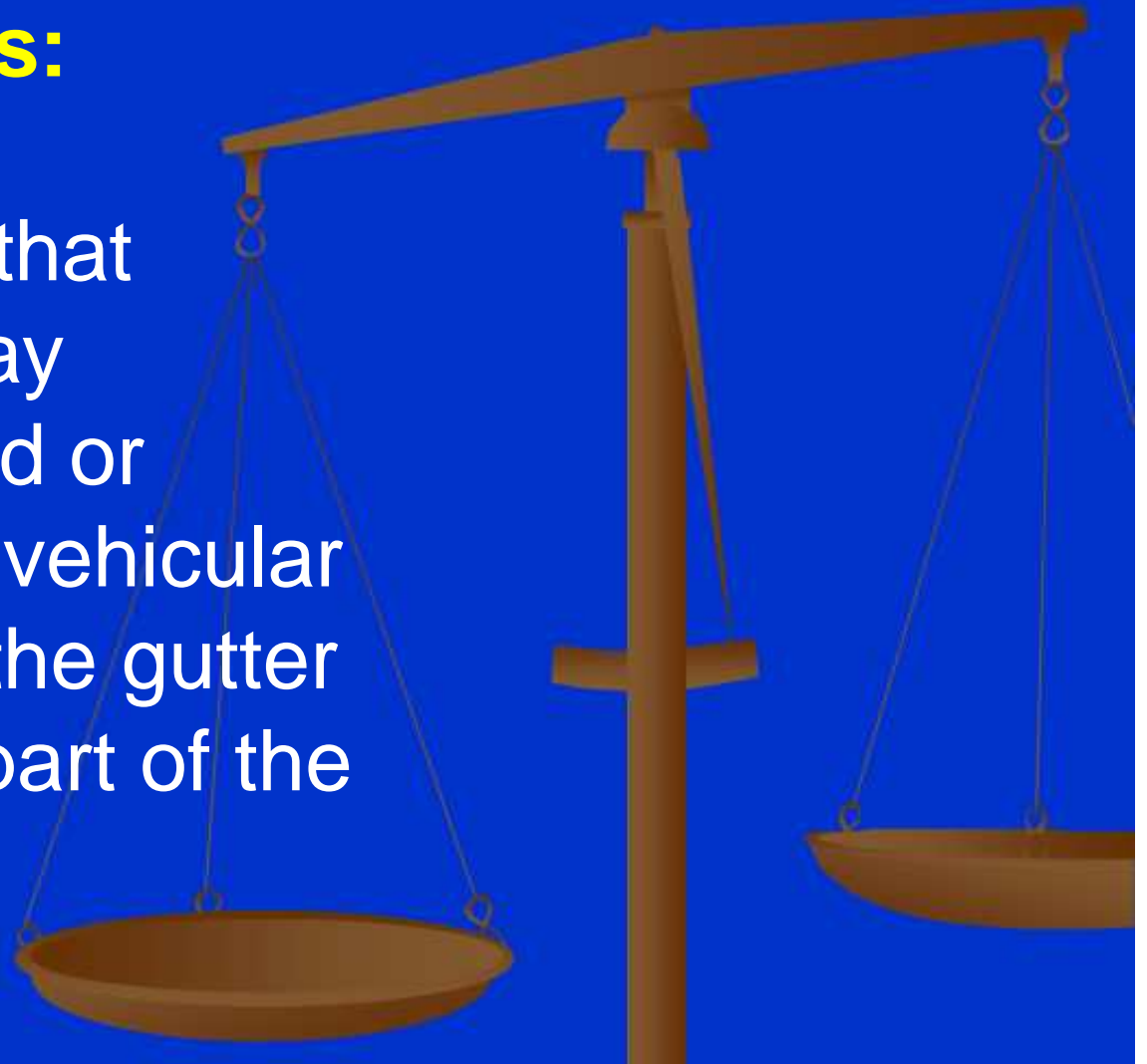
"A person riding upon a bicycle  
... shall not attach the same or  
himself to a streetcar or  
vehicle upon a roadway."



# What is the definition of roadway?

## **MCL 257.55 states:**

"Roadway means that portion of a highway improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel." Therefore the gutter is not considered part of the roadway.

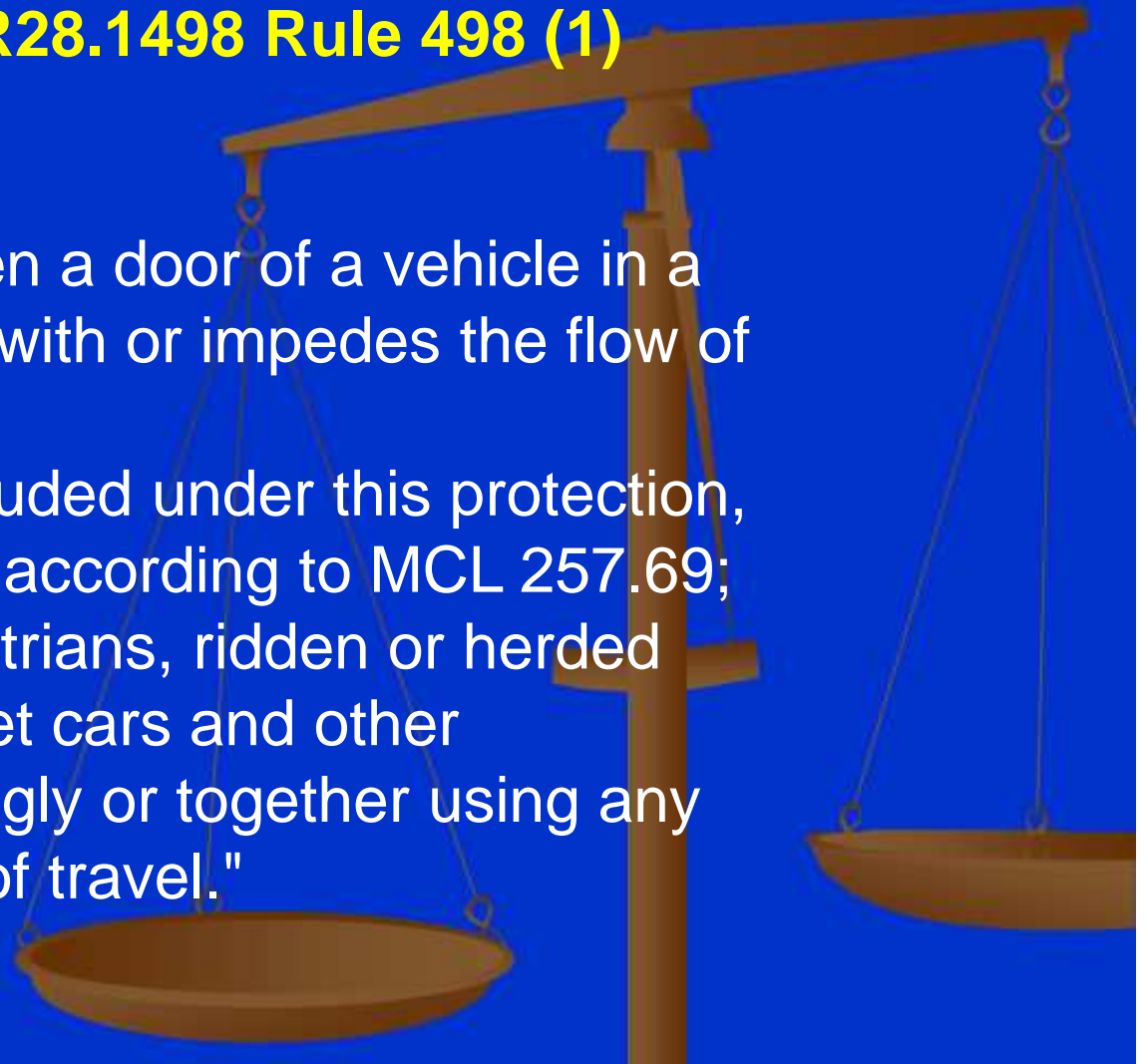


# Is there any law against motorists opening their doors into bicyclists?

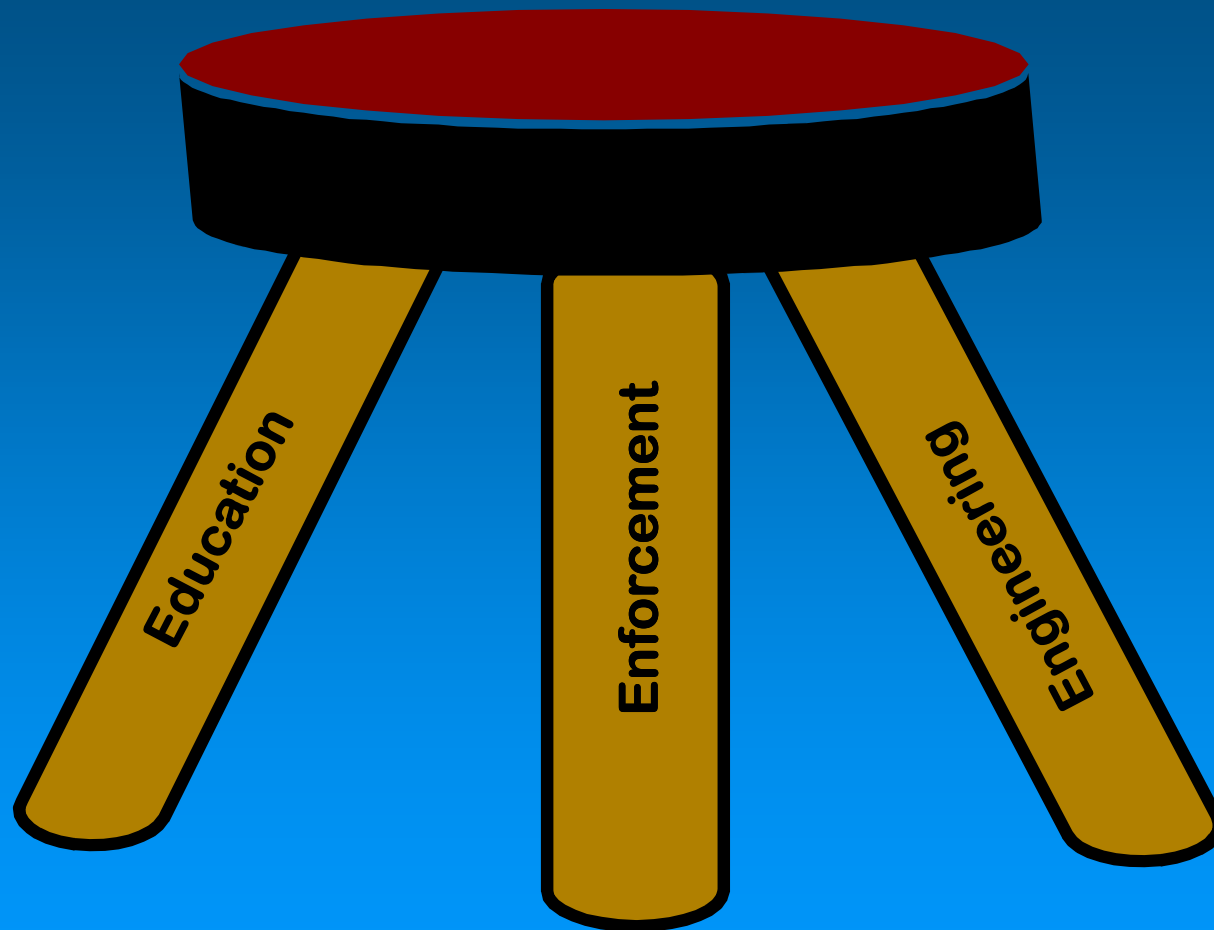
**Administrative Rule R28.1498 Rule 498 (1)**  
**states:**

"A person shall not open a door of a vehicle in a manner that interferes with or impedes the flow of traffic."

A bicycle would be included under this protection, since it is legally traffic according to MCL 257.69; "... traffic means pedestrians, ridden or herded animals, vehicles, street cars and other conveyances either singly or together using any highway for purposes of travel."



# The Bicycle Safety Stool



# Education

- One on one
- Bicycle rodeos
- Assemblies/events
- Hand outs
- Other





# What Every Michigan Bicyclist Must Know

## A Guide For Bicyclists



Tips for Sharing the Road  
Legally and Safely



# What Every Young Michigan Bicyclist Must Know

## A Guide for Youth



Tips for Riding your Bicycle  
Legally and Safely



[www.LMB.org](http://www.LMB.org)



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**Education Toolkit**

***[www.LMB.org](http://www.LMB.org)***



# Bicycle Rodeo

- A rodeo is a bicycle skills event which provides an opportunity for bicyclists to practice and develop skills that will help them to become better bicyclists and avoid typical crashes.
- It is simply education by practice.
- It can be large, small, one day or multiple days.
- Kids are not small adults!



# Fundamentals of an Effective Bicycle Education Program

## Skills to Teach

- Starting and Stopping
- Scanning
- Avoiding hazards
- Making Turns
- Entering and crossing street
- Riding under control and predictably!



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## Bicycle Rodeos - How to run an event.



*Page 1 of 14*

Just like bicycle education is more than a shove down the driveway, a bicycle rodeo is more than just an obstacle course. This "Guide to Bicycle Rodeos" is intended to give you the tools to run a successful event that provides a strong educational component for the participants. All the information contained here may be reproduced.

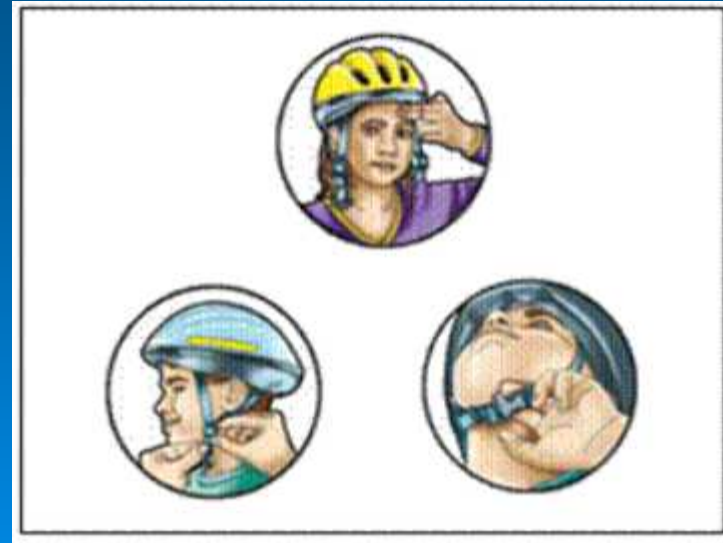
When we remember back to our first bicycle, we remember that it provided fun, freedom, independence, transportation and responsibility. The bicycle is the most efficient machine known to mankind. The bicycle is playing a role in many of the issues facing us today, health & wellness, environmental concerns and transportation. As more and more Americans rediscover the bicycle, it is critical that all users understand how to safely drive a bicycle.





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## Bicycle Safety Presentaion



This program is designed to be delivered in a school setting in an "Assembly" type format. Normally 4 "Assemblies" can be held in a day. (Two in the morning and two in the afternoon). Each "Assembly" takes approximately 30 minutes. The target audience is elementary school students in grades K-4.



“¿Qué los  
padres necesitan,  
Need to Know,  
saber”

¿Qué Necesitan  
Los Bicyclistas



Presented by:  
*Presentado por:*

League of Michigan Bicyclists



# Enforcement





# Enforcement Strategies

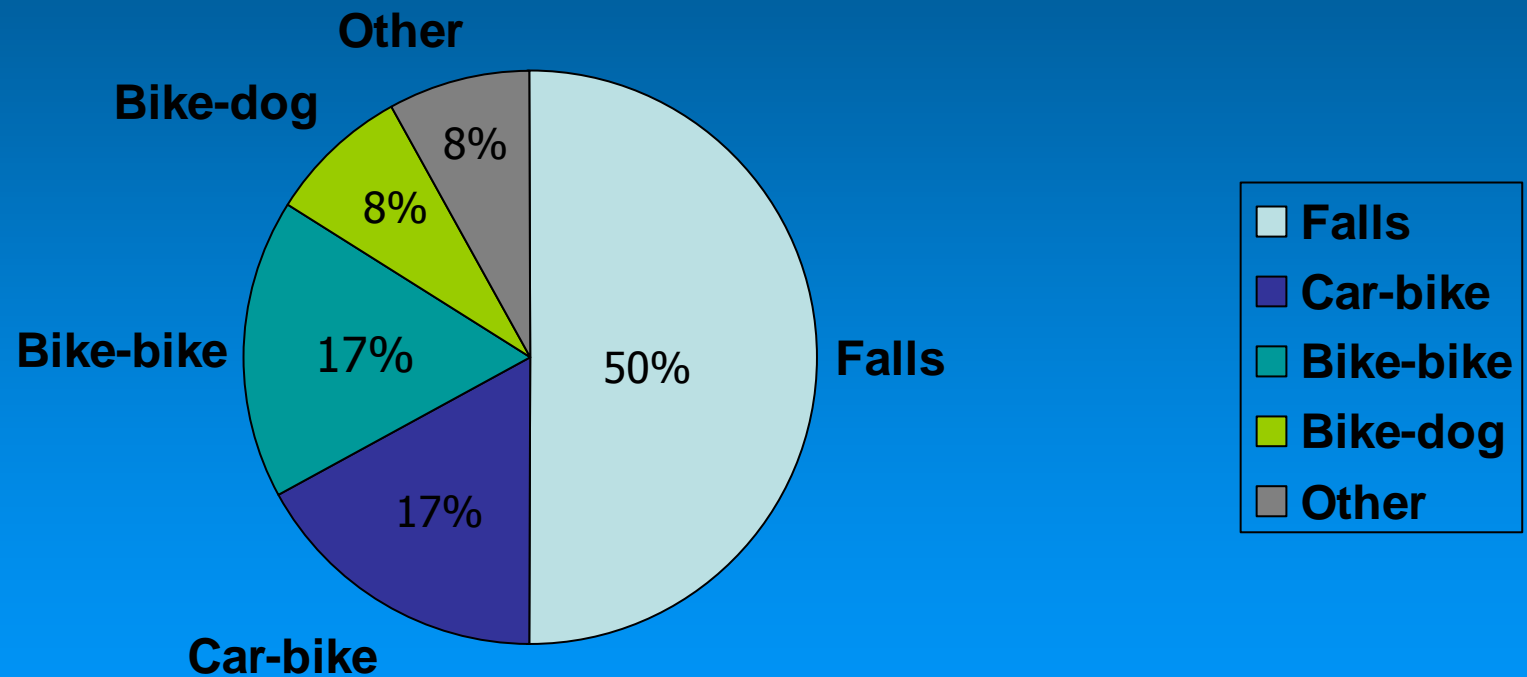
- Shotgun approach
- Selective enforcement



# Bicycle Crash Investigation & Reporting



# Total Bicycle Crashes



# Importance of UD-10

The law enforcement officer is absolutely the most important element of the UD-10 and electronic crash report!

The data produced from approximately 400,000 traffic crash reports processed each year can be no better than the accuracy of the original reports submitted by Michigan's law enforcement agencies. **If the law enforcement officer completing the UD-10 Traffic Crash Report or the UD-10E Electronic Crash Report does an incomplete or incorrect job of filling out the form, the resulting data will be of poor quality.** As a result, traffic safety experts will be unable to evaluate public education campaigns, make improvements to roadways, and dangerous drivers will continue to pose a threat to all motorists.

*State of Michigan UD-10 Traffic Crash Report Manual*

# Take Note

- Bicyclist story (condition of bike)
- Motorist story (condition of car) -  
**When a motorist says they didn't see a cyclist**, it should trigger questions about alcohol, drugs, fatigue, distractions -- cell phones, GPS, audio?



# Myth

- The bicyclist just veered into my car!





# Take Note

- Bicyclist story (condition of bike)
- Motorist story (condition of car) -  
**When a motorist says they didn't see a cyclist,** it should trigger questions about alcohol, drugs, fatigue, distractions -- cell phones, GPS, audio?
- Surface Conditions
- Glasses/eyewear
- Visual conditions
- Crash scene
- Witnesses



# Investigation Report



- Thorough for both bicyclist and motorist.
- Need for accurate traffic reports – **without accurate data we won't be able to change engineering or provide education to correct behavior.**
- Traffic charges
- A civil suit could be filed for death or injuries

# Target Violations

## Cyclists:

- Stop signs
- Red lights
- Wrong way
- Fail to yield
- Equipment
- Improper lane change/turns



## Motorists

- Distracted driving
- Fail to yield
- Speed
- Improper passing
- OWI

# Enforcement Options

- Positive reinforcement
- Verbal warning
- Written warning
- Citation



# Starting an Enforcement Program

- Administrative support
- Program coordinator
- Prosecutor/attorney and court support
- Department policy
- Educate those affected
  - Student Newspaper
  - Local Newspaper
  - Cycling org newsletter
  - LMB, LAB, IPMBA, LEBA
- Community support
  - Chambers, local bike clubs, local coalitions, etc.



# Non-Enforcement Excuses

- Peer pressure
- Social pressure
- Law enforcement administration and/or legal system
- Fines
- Time





# Non-Enforcement Excuses



- Remembering own childhood
- “They will only hurt themselves”
- Waiting for THE BIG ONE

# Department Role in Bicycle Safety

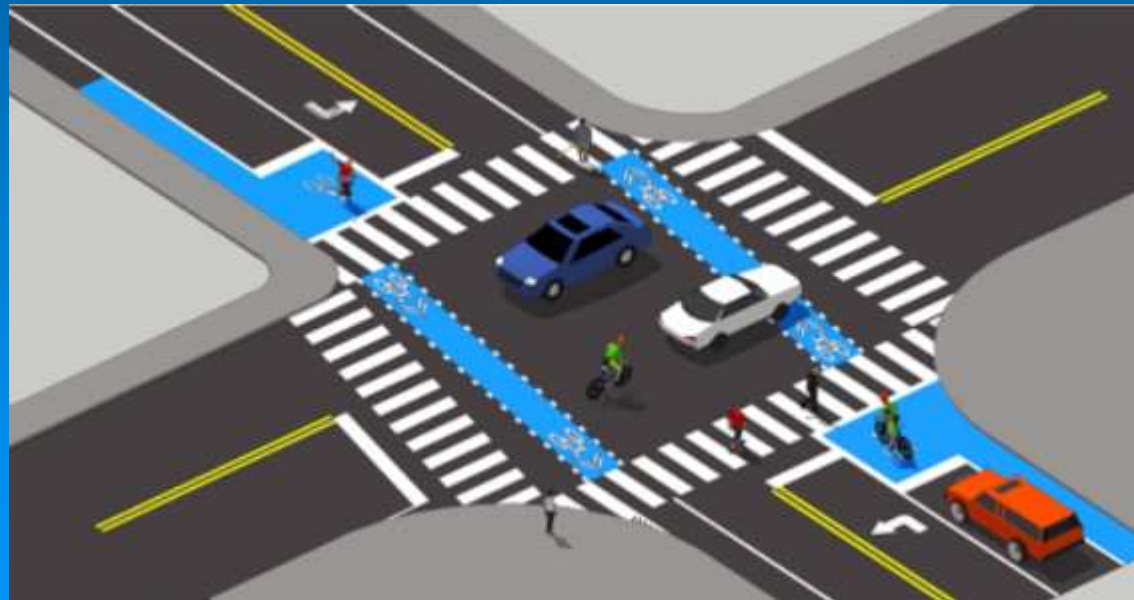
- Crash investigation, report, evaluate
- Agency policy
- Public information and education
- LE bicycle and ped safety training  
[www.massbike.org/police](http://www.massbike.org/police)
- Coordinate with and support the “3 E’s”
- Bicycle safety program
- Injury/fatality prevention

# Police Officer Potential Roles in Bicycle Safety

- Dept link to community
- Role model
- Enforcer
- Educator
- Community resource
- Program coordinator



# Engineering



## **RELATIVE DANGER INDEX**

### **Of various types of facilities**

➤ Major Streets w/o bike lanes	1.28
➤ Minor Streets w/o bike lanes	1.04 *
➤ Streets with bike lanes	0.5
➤ Mixed-use paths	0.67
➤ Sidewalks	5.32

(\* = shared roadway)

1.00 = median

**Source: William Moritz, U.W. - "Accident Rates for Various Bicycle Facilities" - based on 2374 riders, 4.4 million miles**



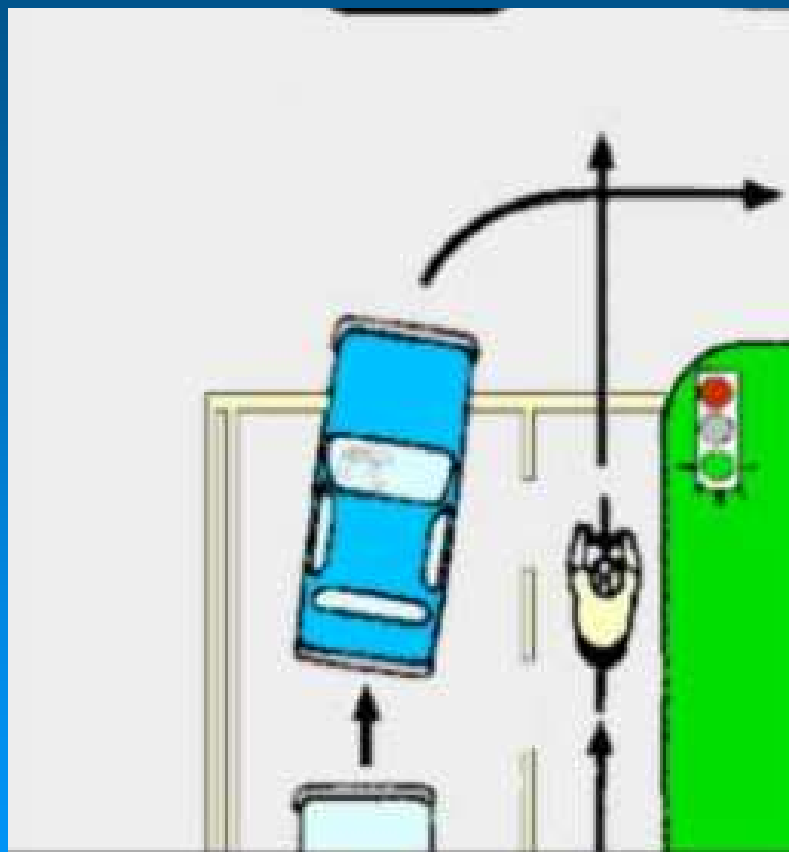


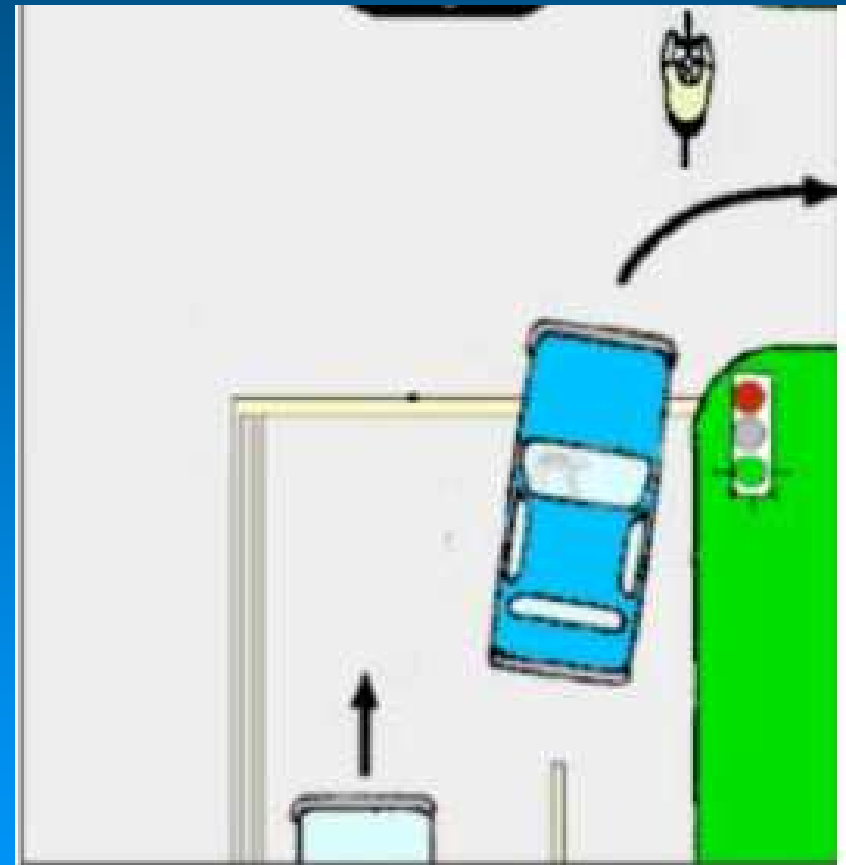














# What is Complete Streets?

## *A system of streets...*

“planned, designed, and constructed to provide appropriate access to all legal users in a manner that promotes safe and efficient movement of people, and goods whether by car, truck, transit, assistive device, foot or bicycle.”

PA 135 of 2010



- All users include:
- Pedestrians
  - Bicyclists
  - Transit users
  - Motorists
  - Trucks
  - Children
  - Elderly
  - People of various abilities



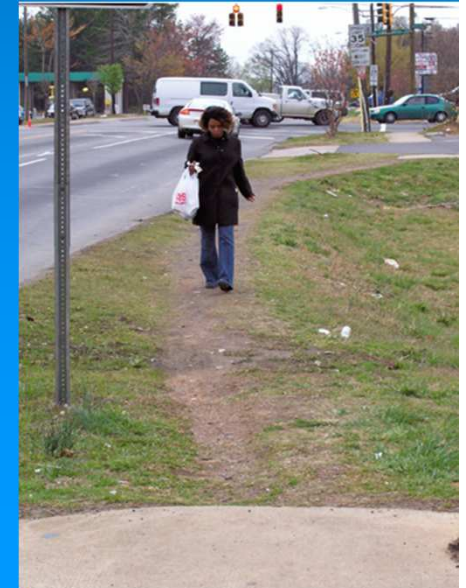
# Examples of Incomplete Streets



Broken Sidewalk Blog



National Complete Streets Coalition





# Examples of Complete Streets



Dan Burden,  
pbic Image Library

# Theory of Completing the Street



Use *all* of the public right-of-way  
to relate to private development





Bridgeport Way, University Place, Washington





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## Bikeability Assessment Guide for Communities

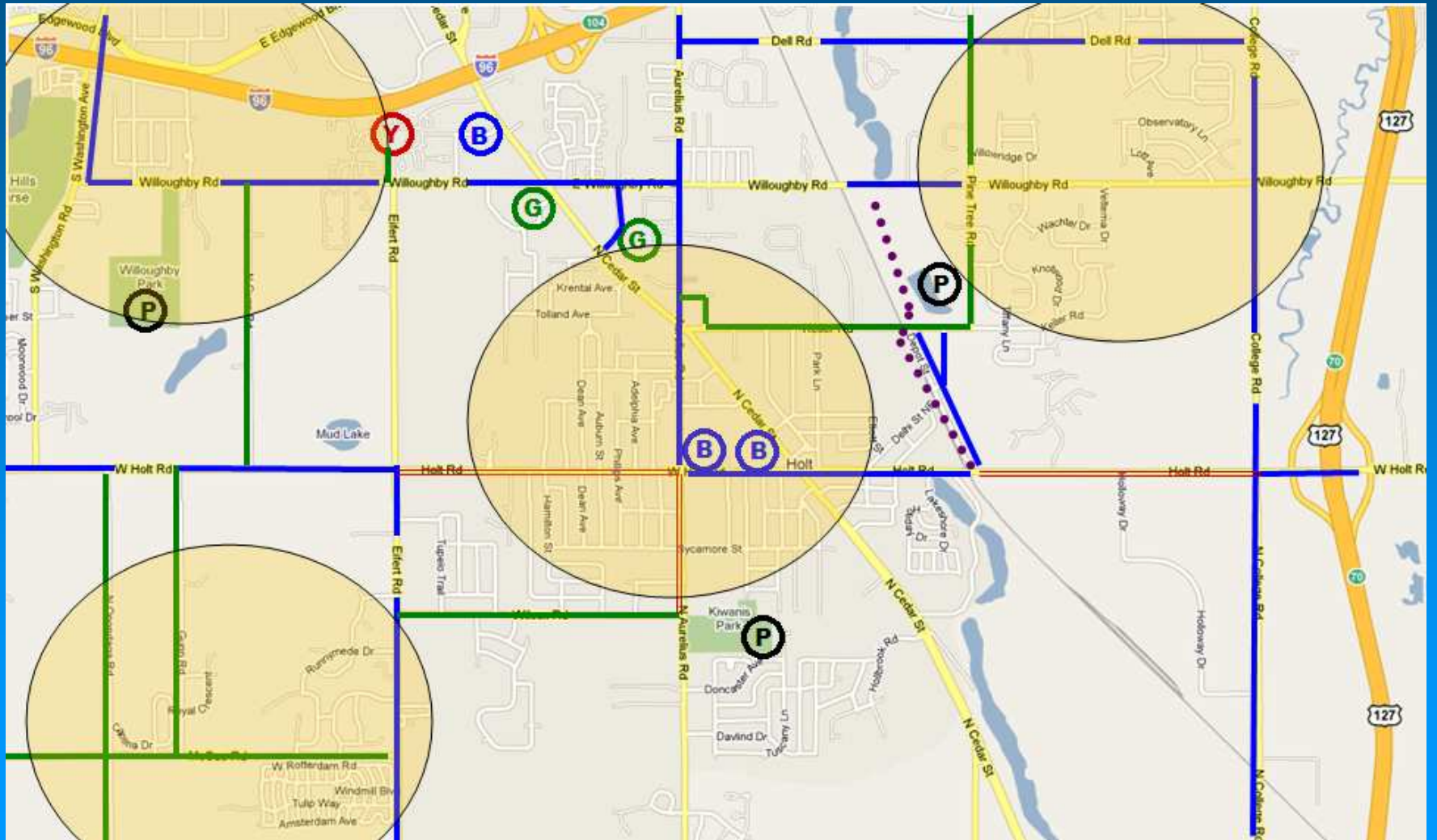


The Bikeability Assessment can be completed easily by following the guide as presented. Some might find it more effective to have someone "coach" you through the project. Contact the League of Michigan Bicyclists ( [office@LMB.org](mailto:office@LMB.org) ) to find a "coach" to work with your Bikeability Assessment Team.

This guide can be used to help your community leaders develop a non-motorized master plan for the community or it can be used by a bike club, bike shop or community organization to provide information on bicycling in the community.

The end result should be a series of bike routes that connect population centers with community assets. Over time these "main" routes can be further refined by developing connectors to neighborhoods and other assets.

# Assets, Population Centers, existing bike facilities

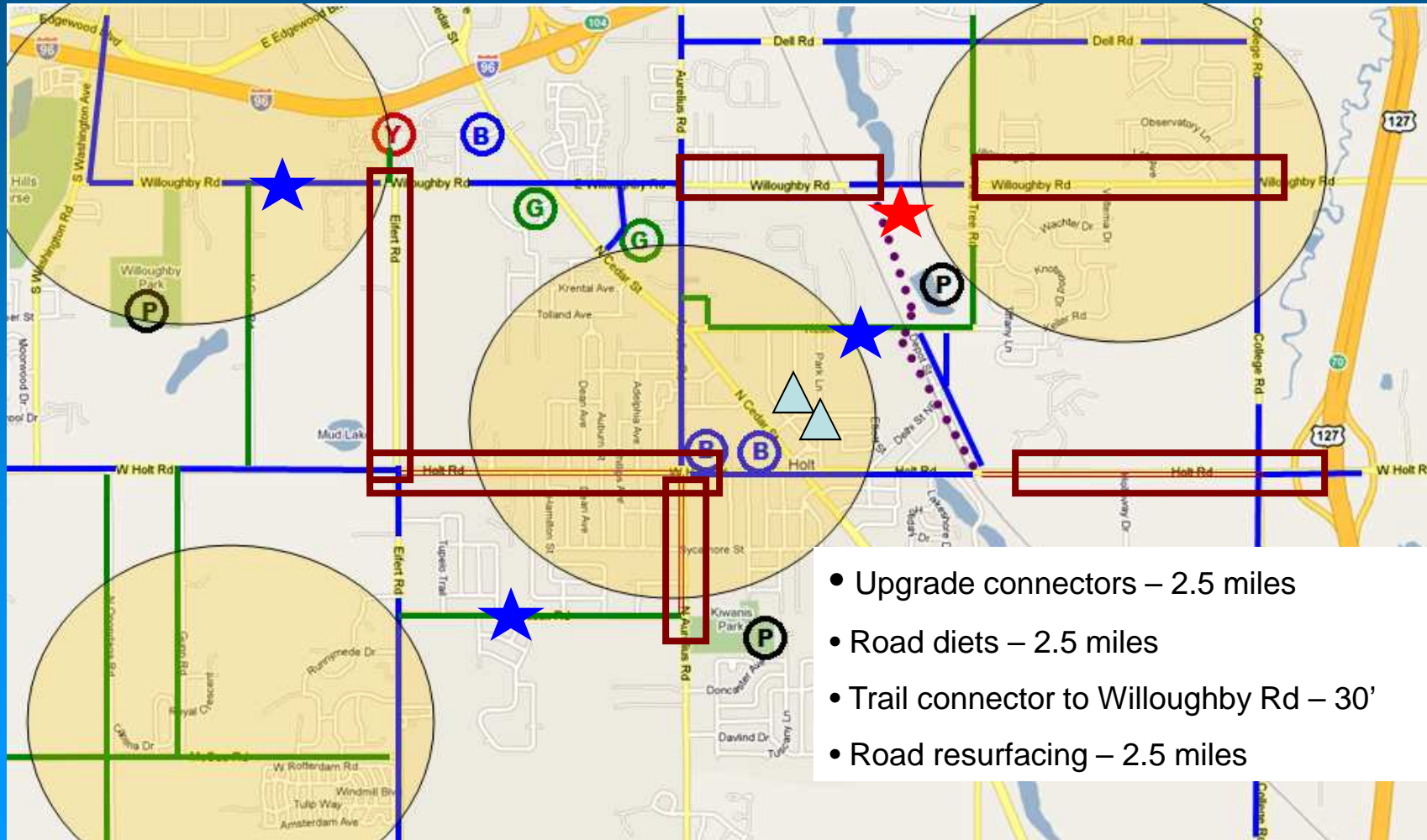




# Field Testing



# Potential Recommendations



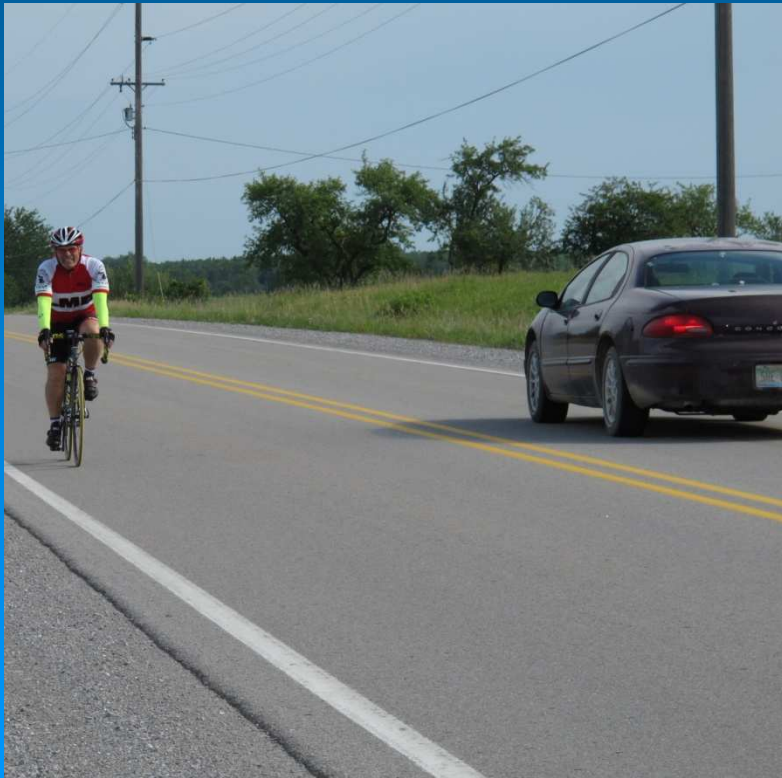
- Upgrade connectors – 2.5 miles
- Road diets – 2.5 miles
- Trail connector to Willoughby Rd – 30'
- Road resurfacing – 2.5 miles



# WRAP UP



# Bicyclist Riding Behavior



## Two year observational Study of Bicyclists Behavior (N=1,999)

- Stop Light/Stop Sign = 2.5%
- Wrong Way Riding = 6.3%
- Lights = 0.4%
- Other = 0.7%
- Sidewalk Riding = 27.3%
- Responsible on Road = 62.8%

# What I have learned in 36+ years of riding my bicycle.

1. Bicyclists don't go around trying to run into cars.
2. A bicyclist never wins in an accident with a car.
3. Bicyclists aren't blocking traffic, we are traffic.
4. No I don't belong on the sidewalk.
5. Yes I do have a car, but I prefer to ride my bike.
6. Yes I do pay road taxes.
7. Don't honk, I am saving gas for you to waste, and yes I can hear that you are impatient.
8. Please don't take your frustration with someone else out on me.
9. A bicyclist can be right and dead right. Use a little common sense.
10. Bicyclists are not weirdoes ... we are fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, grand parents, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.





# Questions ?



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